

Geography of India

Geographical Location of India

- Lying between latitude 42° N to 37°62' N and from longitude 68°72' E to 97°25'2 E, the country is divided into almost equal parts by the Tropic of Cancer (passes from Jabalpur in MP).
- The southernmost point in Indian Territory, (in Great Nicobar Island) is the Indira Point (6°45'2 N), while Kanyakumari, also known as Cape Comorin, is the southernmost point of Indian mainland. The country thus lies wholly in the northern and eastern hemispheres.
- The 82°30'2 E longitude is taken as the Standard Time Meridian of India, as it passes through the middle of India (from Naini, near Allahabad).

Agriculture in India

Cropping Seasons in India

Kharif Crops

- Sown in summers between May and July, and harvested after the rains, in September and October.
- Eg: Rice, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Cotton, Jute, Sugarcane, Tobacco, Groundnut, Pulses, etc.

Rabi Crops

- Sown at the beginning of winter and harvested before the onset of the summer season, between Feb and April.
- Eg: Wheat, barley, oilseeds, gram, potatoes, etc.

Zayad Crops

- They are raised between April and June.
- E.g. : Melon, watermelon, cucumber, toris, leafy and other vegetables. Cash Crops of India (Commercial Crops)
- Grown mainly for the market, only a small portion of the product is consumed by the farmers themselves (cotton, sugarcane etc.)

Mineral Resources of India

Coal: West Bengal (Raniganj, Burdwan, Bankura, Purulio, Birbhum, Jalpaigudi, Darjeeling), Jharkhand (Jharia, Giridih, Kharhawadi, Bokaro, Hazaribagh, Kamapura, Rampur, Palamau),

Orissa (Rampur, Hindgir, Talcher, Sambal), Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (Rewa, Pench valley, Umaria, Korba, Sohagpur, Mand river area, Kanha valley, Betul), etc.

Manganese: Orissa, Maharashtra (Nagpur, Bhandara, Ratnagiri), Madhya Pradesh (Balaghat, Chhindawara), Karnataka (Kodanur, Bonai, Kalahandi), Andhra Pradesh (Kadur, Garibadi)

Copper: Madhya Pradesh (Balaghat), Rajasthan (Khetri), Jharkhand (Singhbhum, Masobani, Surda), Karnataka (Chitradurg, Hassan).

Mica: Jharkhand (Hazaribagh, Giridih, Kodarma), Bihar (Goya, Bhagalpur), Andhra Pradesh (Guntur, Vizag, Kurnool), Rajasthan (Bhilwara, Udaipur, Jaipur).

Petroleum: Assam (Digboi, Naharkatiya, Badarpur, Masinpur and Pallhar), Gujarat, (Ankleshwar, Khambhat, Kalol), Mumbai High, Bassein (south of Mumbai High), etc. Recently oil has been discovered in Cauvery basin, Krishna and Godavary basin, Khambhat basin, etc.

Iron: India possesses Haematite, a very high-grade iron ore. In Madhya Pradesh (Bailadila, Jabalpur), Goa (North Goa), Karnataka (Bababudan hills, Chikmagalur, Hospet), Jharkhand (Singhbhum, Naomundi), Andhra Pradesh, Orissa.

Bauxite: Chief ore for producing aluminium. In Orissa (Kalahandi, Koraput, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Sambalpur), Jharkhand (Lohardaga, Gumla), Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur, Mandla, Shahdol, Kami, Balaghat), Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu.

Gold: Karnataka (Kolar, Hutti, Raichur), Andhra Pradesh (Ramgiri and Yeppamanna goldfields in Chittoor and Anantapur districts).

Silver, Zinc & Lead: Rajasthan (Zawar mines near Udaipur), Andhra Pradesh (Mysore, Chitradurg), Karnataka (Kolar mines).

Uranium Resources in India: Jharkhand (Jaduguda), Rajasthan (Ajmer), Andhra Pradesh (Nellore, Nalgonda), Karnataka (Gulbarga).

Oil Refineries: There are 19 refineries in India, 16 in public sector, one in joint sector and two in private sector. Public sector refineries are located at Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon, Barauni, Haldia, Koyali, Mathura, Kochi, Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Mumbai (2), Panipat, Narimanam, Numanigarh and Tatipaka.

Industries in India

Cotton Textile: Most important industry in terms of employment and production of export goods. In Maharashtra (Mumbai, Sholapur, Pune, Kolhapur, Satara, Wardha, Hajipur), Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat, Bhavnagar), Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore-Manchester of South India). Tamil Nadu has the largest number of cotton textile mills in India.

Silk Textile: The location of silk industry is governed by two factors- prevalence of sericulture practices and availability of skilled labour. Karnataka is the leading producer, followed by West Bengal, Bihar, etc.

Woolen Textile: In Punjab (Dhariwai, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Ferozpur), Maharashtra (Mumbai), UP (Kanpur, Mirzapur, Agra, Tanakpur), etc.

Jute: India manufactures the largest quantity of jute goods in the world. Mainly located in West Bengal, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, UP, MP.

Iron and Steel: Located near the sources of raw materials and fuel (coal). In Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), Durgapur, Burnpur (W.B.), Bhadravati (Karnataka), Bokaro (Jharkhand), Rourkela (Orissa), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Salem (T.N.), Vishakhapatnam (A.P.).

Aluminium Smelting: Located mainly near the sources of raw materials, means of transport and cheap electricity. In Hirakud, Koraput (Orissa), Renukoot (UP), Korba (MP), Ratnagiri (Maharashtra), Mettur (TN), Alwaye

Copper Smelting: In Khetri, Alwar, Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan), Singhbhum (Jharkhand), Agnigundala (A.P.).

Heavy Machinery: In Ranchi, Vishakhapatnam, Durgapur, Tiruchirapalli, Mumbai, Khami.

Machine Tools: It forms the basis for the manufacturing of industrial, defence equipments, automobiles, railway engines and electrical machinery.

In Bangalore, Pinjore (Haryana), Kalamassery (Kerala), Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Srinagar, Ajmer.

Heavy Electrical Equipments: Power generation equipments. In Bhopal, Tiruchirapalli, Jammu, Ramchandrapuram (Hyderabad), Hardwar, Bangalore and Jogdishpur (UP).

Railway Equipments: Locomotives in Indian Railways: In Chittaranjan (WB), Varanasi, Jamshedpur, Bhopal. Coaches: Perambur (TN), Kapurthala (Punjab), also at Bangalore and Kolkata.

Ship Building India: Hindustan Shipyard at Vishakhapatnam, Cochin Shipyard, Mumuai (Mazgaon Dock) and Kolkata (Garden Reach Workshop). For Indian Navy, only at Mazgaon.

Cycles India: In Mumbai, Asansol, Sonapat, Delhi, Chennai, Jalandhar and Ludhiana. Tractors in India At Faridabad, Pinjore, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai.

Fertilizers in India: In Sindri (Bihar), Nangal, Trombay, Gorakhpur, Durgapur, Namrup, Cochin, Rourkela, Neyveli, Varanasi, Vadodara, Vishakhapatnam, Kota and Kanpur.

Aircraft Industry in India: Hindustan Aeronautics India Ltd. was formed by merging two aircraft factories at Bangalore and Kanpur. Four other factories are at Nasik, Hyderabad, Koraput (Orissa), Lucknow.

Rubber Industry in India: Bareilly (UP), Baroda (Gujarat Synthetic Rubber Units, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Amritsar-Reclaimed Rubber Units.

Nuclear Power Stations in India: Tarapur Maharashtra, Kalpakkam Tamil Nadu, called Indra Gandhi Nuclear Power Station

Narora UP, Rawatbhata Kota, Rajasthan, Kaiga Karnataka, Kakrapar Gujarat,

Kudankulam (TN) Under construction with the assistance of Russia

Important Facts about India

Introduction

The official Sanskrit name for India is Bharat. INDIA has been called Bharat even in Satya yuga (Golden Age). The name 'India' is derived from the River Indus, the valleys around which were the home of the early settlers. The Aryan worshippers referred to the river Indus as the Sindhu. The Persian invaders converted it into Hindu. The name 'Hindustan' combines Sindhu and Hindu and thus refers to the land of the Hindus.

India is the Largest democracy in the world, the 7th largest country in the world and one of the most ancient and living civilizations.

Although modern images & descriptions of India often show poverty, India was one of the richest countries till the time of the British in the early 17th Century. Christopher Columbus was attracted by India's wealth and was looking for route to India when he discovered America by mistake.

The number system was invented by India. Aryabhatta was the scientist who invented the digit zero. The 'place value system' and the 'decimal system' were developed in 100 BC in India. The University of Nalanda, built in the 4th century, was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.

Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to mankind. The father of medicine, Charaka, consolidated Ayurveda 2500 years ago. The value of "pi" was first calculated by the Indian Mathematician Budhayana, and he explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem. He discovered this in the 6th century, which was long before the European mathematicians.

Algebra, trigonometry and calculus also originated from India. Quadratic equations were used by Sridharacharya in the 11th century. The largest numbers the Greeks and the Romans used were 10^6 whereas Hindus used numbers as big as 10^{53} with specific names as early as 5000 B.C. during the Vedic period. Even today, the largest used number is Tera: 10^{12} .

Sushruta is regarded as the father of surgery. Over 2600 years ago, Sushruta & his team conducted complicated surgeries like cataracts, artificial limbs, cesareans, fractures, urinary stones and also plastic and brain surgeries.

The usage of anesthesia was well known in ancient Indian medicine. Detailed knowledge of anatomy, embryology, digestion, metabolism, physiology, etiology, genetics and immunity is also found in many ancient Indian texts.

Miscellaneous GK

Facts about India and the World

Awards, Honours and Prizes

Nobel Prize

- It is the most coveted international award of the world.
- It was instituted by the inventor of dynamite, Alfred Bernard Nobel (1833 – 96).
- The award is given on December 10, which is the death anniversary of its founder.
- Nobel made a trust from the money that he earned through the patent of his invention whose interest is used to give the money for the Nobel Prizes.
- Nobel Prize is given every year to those eminent persons who have made pioneering achievements in the field of Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Peace, Literature and Economics.
- Apart from Economics, all other categories have been given since 1901. Economics Nobel Prize was instituted in 1967 and was first given in 1969.
- The international Committee of the Red Cross has been awarded the Nobel Prize for peace three times : In 1917, 1944 and 1963.

Other Awards and Prizes

Pulitzer Prize : It was instituted in 1907 and named after the US Publisher Joseph Pulitzer. It is conferred annually in the USA for accomplishments in journalism, literature and music.

Magsaysay Awards : They were instituted in 1957 and named after Ramon Magsaysay, the late President of Philippines, who died in an air crash. This award is given annually on August 31, for outstanding contributions to public service, community leadership, journalism, literature and creative arts and international understanding. They are often regarded as the Nobel Prize of Asia.

Booker Prize : It is the highest literary award given to the authors of British, Irish and Commonwealth countries. It was instituted in 1968 by the Booker Company and the British Publishers Association along the lines of Pulitzer Prize of US. Booker Prize has been renamed as Man Booker Prize, as the sponsorship has been taken over by the Man Group, an international stockbroker.

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding : It was instituted in 1965 by the Government of India. It is given annually to persons for outstanding contributions to the promotion of international understanding and goodwill among the people of the world.

Oscar Awards : These awards were instituted in 1929 and conferred annually by the Academy of Motion Pictures in USA. These are considered the most prestigious awards in the cinema world.

The first Indian to get an Oscar was Bhanu Athaiya for the movie 'Gandhi'. Satyajit Ray was the first Indian who was awarded Oscar for lifetime achievements in cinema in 1992.

Right Livelihood Award : It was instituted in 1980 by the Right Livelihood Society, London. It is renowned as alternate Nobel Award to promote and contribute in the fields of environment and social justice.

Mahatma Gandhi Peace Prize : It was instituted in 1995 by the Government of India. It is presented for international peace on the lines of Nobel Prize.

UNESCO Peace Prize : It is presented by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for extraordinary contributions for international peace.

UNESCO Human Rights Award : It is also presented by UNESCO for contributions in the field of Human Rights Awareness. It is given every alternate year.

UN Human Rights Award : It is presented by United Nations (UN) for personal contribution for the cause of human rights. It is presented every sixth year.