

CHAPTER 6

OUR COUNTRY INDIA

2Marks Question:

1. Name the major physical divisions of India.

Answer:

Major physical divisions of India:

- The Himalayas
- The Northern Great Plains
- The Peninsular Plateau
- The Coastal Plains
- The Islands

2. India shares its land boundaries with seven countries – Name them.

Answer:Countries sharing land boundaries with India:

- Pakistan
- Afghanistan
- China
- Nepal
- Bhutan
- Myanmar
- Bangladesh

3. Which two major rivers fall into the Arabian Sea?

Answer:

- (i) Narmada
- (ii) Tapi

4. Name the delta formed by the Ganga and the Brahmaputra

Answer: Delta formed by Ganga and Brahmaputra: Sunderban.

5. How many States and Union Territories are there in India? Which states have a common capital?

Answer: States: 28, Union Territories: 07.

States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh have a common capital at Chandigarh.

6. Why do a large number of people live in the Northern Plains?

Answer: Large number of people live in the Northern plains because of the following reasons:

- Fertile land provides facilities for agriculture. It sustains more people.
- Means of transport and communication are developed here. They provide mobility to people.
- Opportunities for employment exist in the plains.
- Water is easily available.
- Industries provide employment (Agro-based industries)

7. Why is Lakshadweep known as a coral island?

Answer: Lakshadweep is a coral island because of the following reasons:

- Climate and seawater is suitable for the growth of polyps.
- Their skeletons pile up and form islands.

4Marks Questions:

.1. Write a short note on the coastal plains of India.

Answer:

The coastal plains lie to the West of the Western Ghats and the East of the Eastern Ghats. The Western coastal plains are narrow while the eastern coastal plains are much broader. There are several fast-flowing rivers such as Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri. These rivers have formed fertile deltas at their mouth.

2. Describe the locational extent of India.

Answer:

India is located in the northern hemisphere. The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ} 30' N$) passes almost halfway through the country. From south to north, mainland of India extends between $8^{\circ} 4' N$ and $37^{\circ} 6' N$ latitudes. From west to east, India extends between $68^{\circ} 7' E$ and $97^{\circ} 25' E$ longitudes. If we divide the world into eastern and western hemisphere, India will belong to eastern hemisphere.

3. Describe the effect of east-west extent of India on time.

Answer:

The west to east extent leads to difference in local time from meridian to meridian. The local time changes by four minutes for every one degree of longitude. The sun rises two hours earlier in the east, Le. Arunachal Pradesh than in the west, (Gujarat). The local time of longitude of $82^{\circ} 30' E$ has been taken as the Indian Standard Time. This longitude is also known as the Standard Meridian of India. Its time is taken as the standard throughout the country.

4. Describe the major physical divisions of India and their significance.

Answer: India is characterized by diverse physical features, including the lofty Himalayas in the north, the Great Indian Desert in the west, the Northern Plains formed by river deposits, the Peninsular Plateau with its hill ranges, and the Coastal Plains along the eastern and western coasts. These physical divisions contribute to the country's geographical diversity, influencing climate, vegetation, and settlement patterns. For instance, the Northern Plains are agriculturally fertile due to river deposits, while the Great Indian Desert experiences arid conditions.

5. Explain the geographical location of India and its impact on time zones.

Answer:

India is situated in the northern hemisphere, with latitudinal extent between 8°4'N and 37°6'N and longitudinal extent between 68°7'E and 97°25'E. The Tropic of Cancer almost bisects the country. Due to its vast longitudinal extent, India spans multiple time zones, leading to a time difference of about two hours between its eastern and western extremes. The Indian Standard Time is based on the 82°30'E meridian, chosen to minimize this time difference and provide a standardized time across the country.

6. Discuss the political and administrative divisions of India, highlighting the basis for the formation of states.

Answer:

India is administratively divided into 28 States and 8 Union Territories. The states are primarily formed based on linguistic considerations, fostering unity among people who speak the same language. For example, states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka were formed to accommodate speakers of Marathi, Tamil, and Kannada, respectively. Delhi serves as the national capital and is a Union Territory. This linguistic basis for state formation helps in preserving and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.

India's rivers, including the Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus, and their tributaries, play a crucial role in shaping the landscape. The Northern Plains, formed by river deposits, are agriculturally fertile and densely populated.

7Marks Questions:

1. Describe the major physical division of India.

Answer:

India has a diverse physical feature, such as mountains, plateaus, plains, coasts and islands. 1. The Himalayas. The Himalayas stand sentinels in the north. The Himalayas mountains are divided into three main parallel ranges. The northernmost is the Great Himalaya or Himadri. The world's highest peaks are located in this range. Middle Himalayas or Himachal lies to the south of Himadri. The Shiwalik is the southernmost range.

2. The Northern Indian Plains. They lie to the south of the Himalayas. They are usually level and flat. These are fertile regions and are suitable for cultivation. Thick population is found here.

3. The Great Indian Desert. It lies to the western part of the country. It is a sandy stretch of land. Rainfall is very poor, hence very little vegetation is found here.

4. The Peninsular Plateau. It is triangular in shape. It lies to the south of the northern plains. Its relief is highly uneven. Numerous hill ranges and valleys are found here. Aravali hills lie to the north-west side. The Vindhya and the Satpuras are other important ranges. The Narmada and Tapi flow through these ranges. These west-flowing rivers fall into the Arabian Sea. On the west of the plateau lie the Western Ghats also known as Sahyadris. On the east lie the Eastern Ghats. This plateau is rich in minerals like coal and iron ore.

5. Coastal Plains. They lie to the West of the Western Ghats and East of the Eastern Ghats. The rivers Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri (all east flowing rivers) fall into the Bay of Bengal. They have formed fertile deltas at their mouth.

6. Islands. Two groups of islands are an integral part of the country. Lakshadweep islands are located in the Arabian Sea while Andaman and Nicobar islands lie to the South-east of the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal.

2. Discuss the political and administrative divisions of India, highlighting the basis for the formation of states.

Answer:India is administratively divided into 28 States and 8 Union Territories. The states are primarily formed based on linguistic considerations, fostering unity among people who speak the same language. For example, states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka were formed to accommodate speakers of Marathi, Tamil, and Kannada, respectively. Delhi serves as the national capital and is a Union Territory.

This linguistic basis for state formation helps in preserving and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.

India's rivers, including the Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus, and their tributaries, play a crucial role in shaping the landscape.

The Northern Plains, formed by river deposits, are agriculturally fertile and densely populated. The rivers also contribute to the formation of delta.

3. Describe the geographical features of India, highlighting its physical divisions and significant landmarks.

Answer:India is characterized by diverse geographical features, including mountains, plateaus, plains, coasts, and islands. The northern part of the country is dominated by the lofty Himalayas, consisting of three parallel ranges: the Great Himalaya or Himadri (northernmost), Himachal (middle), and Shiwalik (southernmost). These mountains form a natural boundary to the north. The Northern Plains, situated to the south of the Himalayas, are flat and fertile, formed by the alluvial deposits of major rivers like the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra. In the west, there is the arid Great Indian Desert.

To the south of the Northern Plains lies the Peninsular Plateau, marked by diverse topography, including hill ranges like the Aravali, Vindhya, and Satpura. The Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats border the plateau in the west and east, respectively. Coastal plains lie to the west and east of these ghats, with rivers like Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri draining into the Bay of Bengal.

India also has island territories, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea. These islands, along with the mainland, contribute to the geographical diversity of India.

4. Discuss India's location and its impact on time zones. Explain the significance of the Standard Meridian of India.

Answer: India is located in the northern hemisphere, with the Tropic of Cancer passing almost halfway through the country. The latitudinal extent ranges from 8° 4'N to 37° 6'N, while the longitudinal extent is between 68° 7'E and 97° 25'E. Due to this vast longitudinal extent, there is a time difference of about two hours between the easternmost and westernmost points of India.

To address this, the Indian Standard Time (IST) is based on the Standard Meridian, which is the longitude 82° 30'E. This meridian was chosen to minimize the time difference and establish a common standard for the entire country. The local time changes by four minutes for every one degree of longitude, and by adopting the IST, India ensures a standardized time across its expanse.

5. Outline India's political and administrative divisions, emphasizing the role of states and union territories.

Answer:

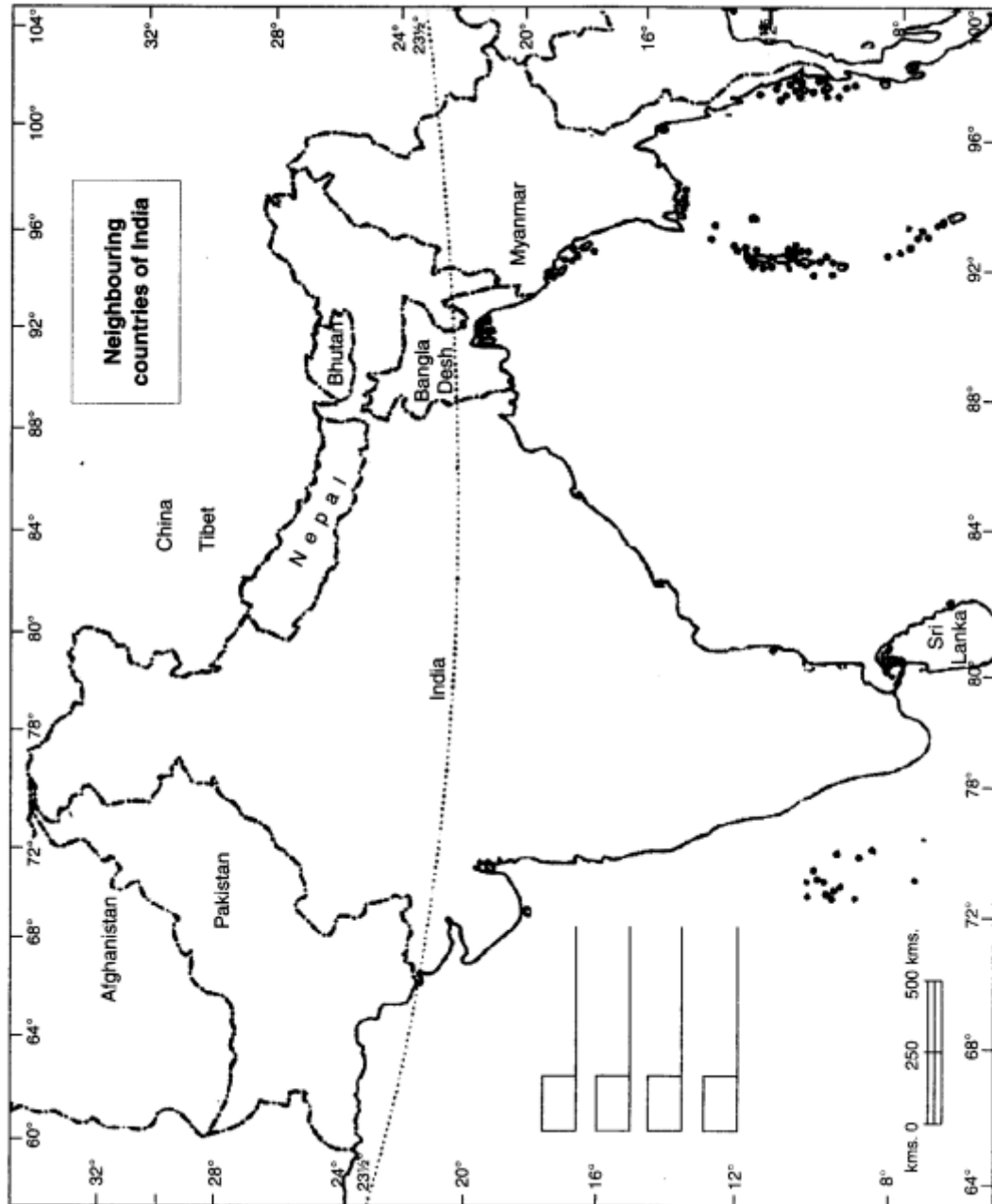
India is administratively divided into 28 States and 8 Union Territories. The capital city is Delhi. States in India are primarily formed based on linguistic considerations, fostering unity and diversity. The States and Union Territories contribute to the federal structure of India, each with its own government.

Delhi serves as the national capital and is also a Union Territory. States like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and others are integral to the administrative structure. The division into States allows for regional governance, ensuring effective administration and representation. Union Territories, on the other hand, are directly governed by the central government, providing a balanced and coordinated approach to national governance.

Map Skills

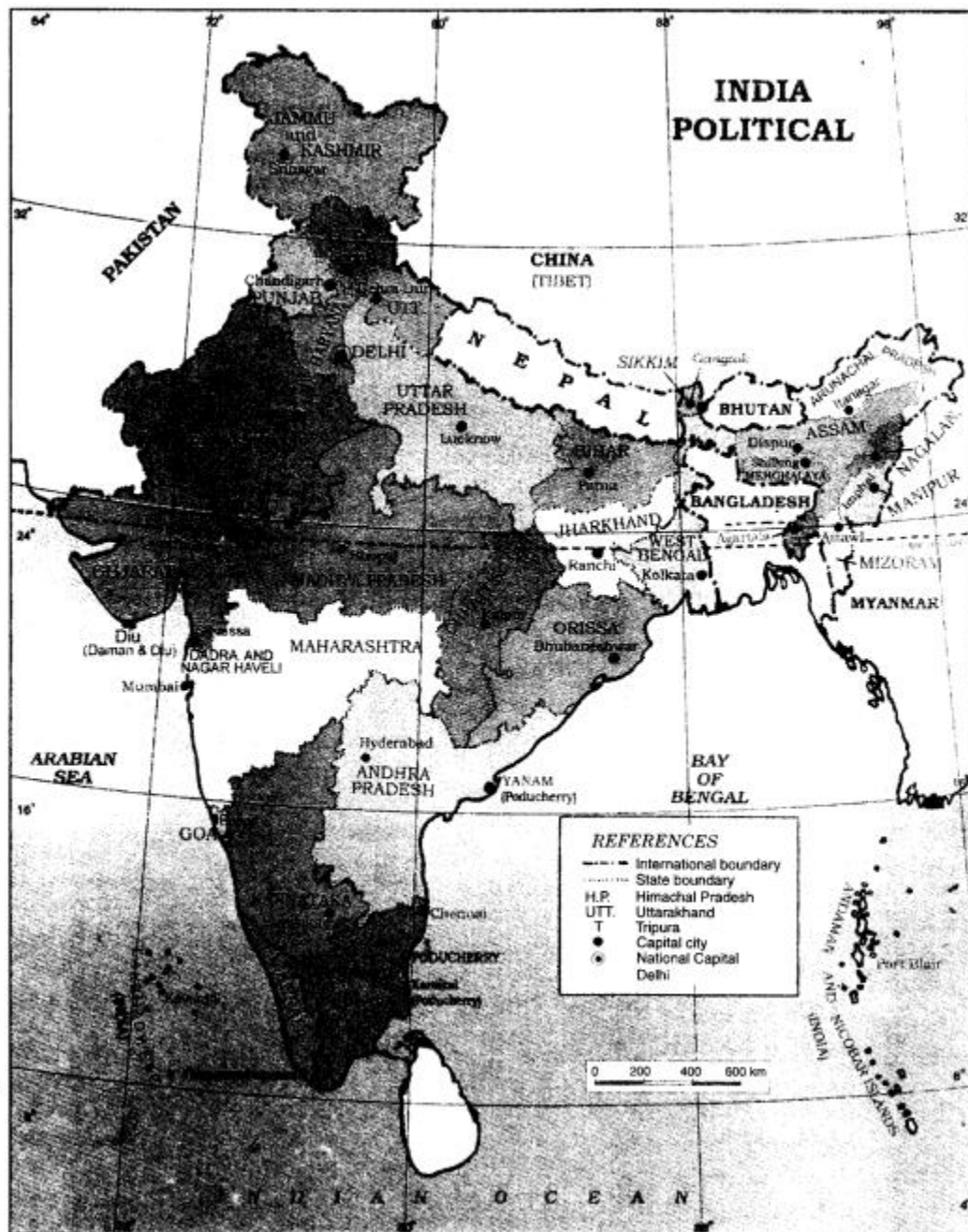
1. On an outline map of India, show its neighboring countries.

Answer:



2. On an outline political map of India, show all the states and union territories.

Answer:



Multiple Choice Questions

1. The southernmost Himalayas are known as

- a) Shiwaliks
- b) Himadri
- c)Himachal

2. Sahyadris is also known as

- a) Aravali
- b) Western Ghats
- c) Himadri

3.The Palk Strait lies between the countries

- a) Sri Lanka and Maldives
- b) India and Sri Lanka
- c) India and Maldives

4. The Indian islands in the Arabian Sea are known as

- a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- b) Lakshadweep Island
- c) Maldives

5) The oldest mountain range in India is the

- a) Aravali hills
- b) the Western Ghats
- c) Himalayas

Answer:

1) —(a),

2) —(b),

3) —(b),

4) —(b),

5) —(a)

Fill in the blanks.

1. India has an area of about.....
2. The Greater Himalayas are also known as.....
3. The largest state in India in terms of area is.....
4. The river Narmada falls into the.....
5. The latitude that runs almost halfway through India is
.....
6. India is located in Asia.
7. The capital city of India is.....
8. The official language of India is
9. India is known for its diverse.....and rich cultural heritage.
10. The national emblem of India features the

Answer:

1. 3.28 million sq. km
2. Himadri
3. Rajasthan
4. Arabian
5. The Tropic of Cancer.
6. South
7. New Delhi
8. Hindi
9. Culture
10. Lion Capital of Ashoka

Summary:

The lesson "Our Country India" aims to familiarize students with various aspects of India, encompassing its geographical features, historical significance, and rich cultural diversity. Key points covered may include: **Geography:** The lesson might explore India's diverse physical geography, including its major rivers, mountain ranges, plains, and coastal regions. Special attention may be given to the Himalayas, the Ganges River, the Thar Desert, and other prominent landmarks.

Political Structure: Students may learn about the political organization of India, including states and union territories. The lesson could highlight the capital city (New Delhi), major cities, and the political system, emphasizing India's status as the world's largest democracy.

Cultural Diversity: India is known for its cultural richness and diversity. The lesson may cover various aspects of Indian culture, such as languages, religions, festivals, traditional clothing, and art forms. Students may gain an appreciation for the multitude of customs and traditions that make India unique.

History: The historical aspect of the lesson might touch upon key events in India's history, including ancient civilizations, the Maurya and Gupta empires, the Mughal period, British colonial rule, and the struggle for independence led by figures like Mahatma Gandhi.

Economy: An overview of India's economy may be provided, showcasing key sectors such as agriculture, industry, and services. The lesson may also discuss contemporary economic challenges and opportunities.

National Symbols: Students might learn about India's national symbols, including the national flag, emblem, anthem, and various state symbols.

Contemporary Issues: The lesson may briefly touch upon current issues facing India, such as environmental concerns, economic development, and social challenges.