

◆ Key Facts to Remember

- India lies in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Latitudinal extent: 8°4'N to 37°6'N
- Longitudinal extent: 68°7'E to 97°25'E
- Total area: 3.28 million sq. km (7th largest in the world)
- Accounts for 2.4% of world's land area
- Land boundary: approx. 15,200 km
- Coastline (including islands): 7,516.6 km



Figure 1.1 : India in the World

📍 Location shown in → 📷 Fig 1.1: India in the World

◆ India's Extreme Points

- Northernmost: near Indira Col (Jammu & Kashmir)
- Southernmost (mainland): Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)
- Southernmost (including islands): Indira Point (Nicobar Islands, submerged in 2004 tsunami)
- Easternmost: Kibithu (Arunachal Pradesh)
- Westernmost: Guhar Moti (Gujarat)



📍 Latitudes and Longitudes shown in → 📷 Fig 1.3: India – Extent and Standard Meridian

◆ Standard Meridian of India

- India has a time lag of 2 hours between east (Arunachal Pradesh) and west (Gujarat).
- To avoid confusion, 82°30'E longitude is taken as the Standard Meridian of India.
- It passes through Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh).

🕒 Important to remember: → All of India follows the same time = Indian Standard Time (IST)

◆ The Tropic of Cancer (23°30'N)

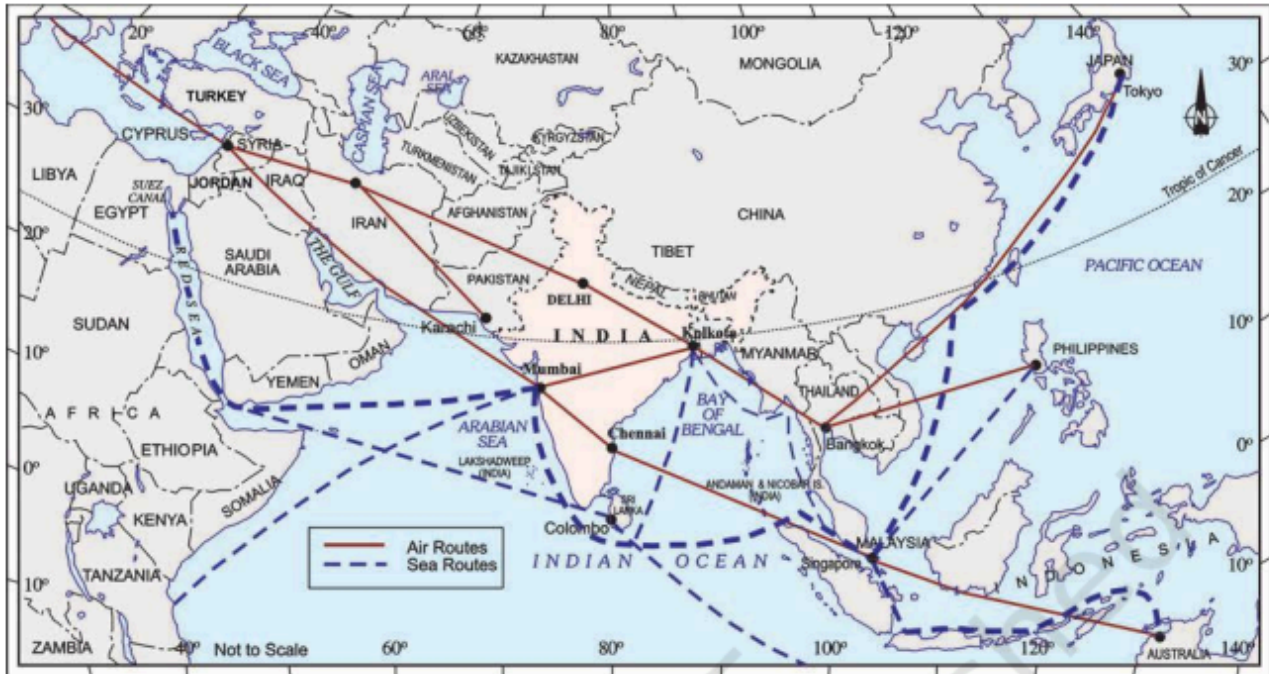
- Divides India into almost two equal halves.
- Passes through 8 states: Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram

📍 Marked clearly in → 📷 Fig 1.3

◆ Position and Significance

■ Central Location of India:

- Lies between East and West Asia
- Southward extension of the Asian continent
- Deccan Peninsula extends into Indian Ocean → provides strategic location



📍 See → 📷 Fig 1.4: India on International Highway of Trade and Commerce

✈ India's central location helps in:

- Connecting trade routes between Europe and East Asia
- Close links with Africa, Southeast Asia, and West Asia
- Since Suez Canal opened (1869), India's distance from Europe reduced by 7,000 km!

◆ Neighbours of India

■ Land boundaries shared with:

- Northwest: Pakistan, Afghanistan
- North: China (Tibet), Nepal, Bhutan
- East: Myanmar, Bangladesh

■ Across the sea:

- Southeast: Sri Lanka (separated by Palk Strait & Gulf of Mannar)
- South: Maldives (south of Lakshadweep)



Figure 1.5 : India and Adjacent Countries

📍 Neighbouring countries shown in → 📷 Fig 1.5: India and Adjacent Countries

◆ States & Union Territories

- India has 28 States and 8 Union Territories (as of now).
- States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh are large in area; Goa, Sikkim are smaller.
- Coastal Union Territories: Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep

◆ Historical Links

- India's land routes are older than sea routes.
- Passes through Himalayas allowed trade and exchange of culture.

📦 What spread from India?

- Ideas: Upanishads, Ramayana, Panchtantra, numerals, decimal system
- Goods: Spices, muslin, ivory
- Foreign influences: Greek sculpture, West Asian domes and minarets

KEY REMINDERS FOR REVISION

- India = 7th largest country
- Tropic of Cancer divides India into 2 halves
- Time difference (Gujarat–Arunachal): 2 hours
- Standard Time: 82°30'E (Mirzapur)
- Shares land borders with 7 countries
- Indira Point = southernmost (now submerged)
- Importance due to location in Indian Ocean