

Chapter – 6: Our Country – India

- India – country – vast geographical expanse
 - North – Himalayas
 - West – Arabian Sea
 - East – Bay of Bengal
 - South – Indian Ocean
- Area – 3.28 million sq. km
- North-South – Ladakh to Kanyakumari – 3,200 km
- East-West – Arunachal Pradesh to Kuchchh – 2,900 km
- Diversity of landforms – Indian desert, mountains, Northern Plains, uneven plateau
- Variety in climate, vegetation, wildlife, language, culture
- Unity in diversity – reflected in traditions
- India population – 120 crores – since 2011 – second most populous country after China

Locational Setting

- Located in northern hemisphere
- Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'$ N) – halfway through the country
- South to north – $8^{\circ}4'$ N to $37^{\circ}6'$ N latitudes
- West to east – $68^{\circ}7'$ E to $97^{\circ}25'$ E longitudes
- Longitudinal extent of 29° – lot of difference in local time – about 2 hours – local time changes – 4 minutes per degree
- Sun rise in east (Arunachal Pradesh) 2 hours earlier than in west (Gujarat)
- Standard time of India – local time of $82^{\circ}30'$ E longitude – Standard Meridian of India

India's Neighbors

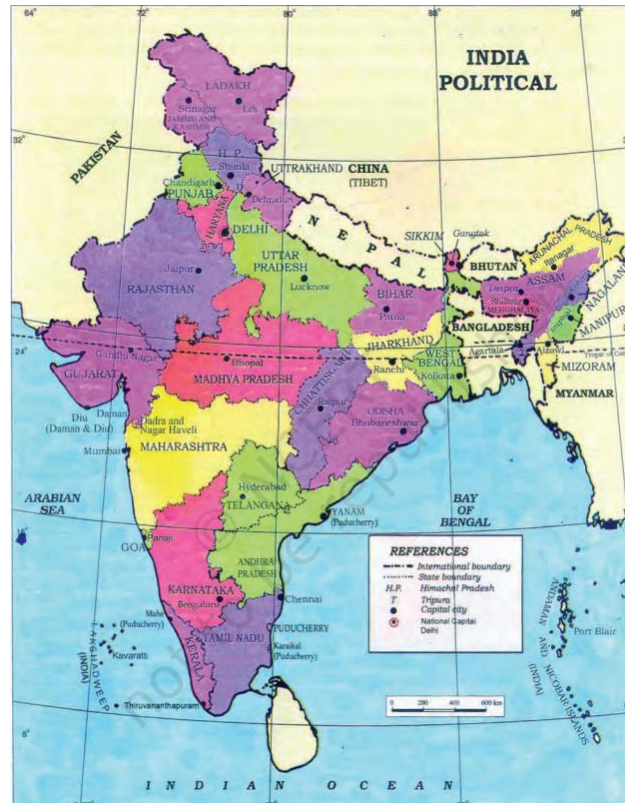
- Seven countries – share land boundary with India – Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar



- Island neighbors – Sri Lanka, Maldives – across the sea towards south
- Sri Lanka – separated through *Palk Strait*

Political and Administrative Divisions

- India – vast country – 28 states and 8 union territories



- Delhi – capital of India – states formed – basis of languages

Physical Divisions

- Diversity of physical features – mountains, plateaus, plains, coasts, islands, etc
- North – Himalayas – sentinels (guards) – abode (home) of snow
 - Divided into 3 parallel ranges –
 - Northernmost – Great Himalaya (Himadri)
 - World's highest peak – situated here
 - South of Himadri – Middle Himalaya (Himachal)
 - Many hill stations – situated here
 - Southernmost – Shiwalik
- South of Himalayas – Northern Indian Plains
 - Level and flat – formed by alluvial deposits – fine soil deposited by rivers – Ganga, Brahmaputra, their tributaries
 - Provide fertile land for cultivation – highest population density
- Western part – Great Indian Desert
 - Dry, hot, sandy
 - Very little vegetation
- South of Northern Plains – Peninsular plateau
 - Triangular in shape - highly uneven terrain

- Lots of hill ranges and valleys – Aravalli hills – one of the oldest ranges – on the north-west border
- Vindhya and Satpuras – imp. ranges
- Narmada and Tapi – flow through these ranges – west flowing rivers – drain into Arabian Sea
- West boundary – Western Ghats (Sahyadris) – almost continuous
- East Boundary – Eastern Ghats – broken and uneven
- Lots of minerals present here – coal, iron-ore
- West of Western Ghats and East of Eastern Ghats – Coastal Plains
 - Western coastal plains – very narrow
 - Eastern coastal plains – much broader
 - Lots of east flowing rivers – Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri – drain into Bay of Bengal
 - These rivers – formed fertile deltas – Sunderban delta – Ganga and Brahmaputra – drain into Bay of Bengal
- 2 groups of island
 - Lakshadweep islands – Arabian Sea – coral islands
 - Andaman and Nicobar Islands – south-east of India – Bay of Bengal