

Chapter 1 – India: Location

The mainland of India, extends from Kashmir in the north to Kanyakumari in the south and Arunachal Pradesh in the east to Gujarat in the west. India's territorial limit further extends towards the sea upto 12 nautical miles (about 21.9 km) from the coast.

India's Latitudinal extent: 8°4' N to 37°6' N

The latitudinal variation shows that the southern part of the country lies within the tropics and the northern part lies in the sub-tropical zone or the warm temperate zone. This location is responsible for large variations in land forms, climate, soil types and natural vegetation in the country.

Our southern boundary extends upto 6°45' N latitude in the Bay of Bengal.

India's Longitudinal extent: 68°7' E to 97°25' E

The latitudinal and longitudinal extent of India, are roughly about 30 degrees, whereas the actual distance measured from north to south extremity is 3,214 km, and that from east to west is only 2,933 km.

The reason for this difference is based on the fact that the distance between two longitudes decreases towards the poles whereas the distance between two latitudes remains the same everywhere.

The distance between two latitudes is approximately 69 miles (111 kms).

From the longitudinal variation, it is clear that the 30 degrees variation causes the time difference of around two hours between the easternmost and the westernmost parts of our country. But, in India, we follow the same time everywhere. How is it possible?

Standard meridians are selected in multiples of 7°30' of longitude. That is why India has chosen 82°30' E as the Indian Standard Meridian and the time of this meridian is taken as Indian Standard Time (IST) which is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT (GMT +5:30).

There are some countries with vast East-to-West extent like USA, Russia etc. They have more than one standard meridian. Example, USA has 7, Russia has 11 time zones.

To do activity: Note down few more countries which have more than one time zone.

India with its area of 3.28 million sq. km accounts for 2.4 per cent of the world's land surface area and stands as the seventh largest country in the world.

Top 10 Largest countries of the World

S. No.	Country	Area (sq. km)
1	Russia	17,098,242
2	Canada	9,984,670
3	China	9,706,961
4	USA	9,372,610
5	Brazil	8,515,767
6	Australia	7,692,024
7	India	3,287,590
8	Argentina	2,780,400
9	Kazakhstan	2,724,900
10	Algeria	2,381,741

Source: worldometers.info

Indian subcontinent includes seven countries - **India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives* and Sri Lanka***.

(India do not share land boundaries with these countries)*

Indian subcontinent is bounded by Himalayas in the north, Hindukush and Sulaiman ranges in the northwest, Purvachal hills in the north-east and by the large expanse of the Indian ocean in the south.

The Himalayas, together with other ranges, have acted as a formidable physical barrier in the past. Except for a few mountain passes such as the Khyber, the Bolan, the Shipkila, the Nathula, the Bomdila, etc. it was difficult to cross it.

Major Passes of India

Passes	Countries/States	Passes Through
Khyber Pass	Pakistan, on the border of Afghanistan	Spin Ghar Mountains
Bolan Pass	Balochistan Province of Pakistan	Toba Bakar Range
Shipkila	Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh	India – Tibet border
Nathula	East Sikkim District of Sikkim	India – China border
Bomdila	Arunachal Pradesh	Connects Arunachal Pradesh with Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet

Peninsular part of India extends towards the Indian Ocean. This has provided the country with a coastline of 6,100 km in the mainland and 7,517 km in the entire geographical coast of the mainland plus the island groups Andaman and Nicobar located in the Bay of Bengal and the Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea.

INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

India is located in the south-central part of the continent of Asia, bordering the Indian ocean and its two arms extending in the form of Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

Neighbours of India include Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Of these, India shares land boundaries with all except Maldives and Sri Lanka.

India & its Neighbouring Countries

Country	Border Length (in kms)
Bangladesh	4,096.7
China	3,488
Pakistan	3,323
Nepal	1,751
Myanmar	1,643
Bhutan	699
Afghanistan	106

India – Bangladesh (4096.7 km)

States	Border Length (in kms)
West Bengal	2216.7
Assam	263
Meghalaya	443
Tripura	856
Mizoram	318

India – China (3488 km)

States	Border Length (in kms)
Jammu & Kashmir	1597
Himachal Pradesh	200
Uttarakhand	345
Sikkim	220
Arunachal Pradesh	1126

India - Pakistan (3323 km)	
States	Border Length (in kms)
Jammu & Kashmir	1222
Punjab	425
Rajasthan	1170
Gujarat	506

India - Nepal (1751 km)	
States	Border Length (in kms)
Uttarakhand	303
Uttar Pradesh	651
Bihar	601
Sikkim	100
West Bengal	96

India - Myanmar (1643 km)	
States	Border Length (in kms)
Arunachal Pradesh	520
Nagaland	215
Manipur	398
Mizoram	510

India - Bhutan (699 km)	
States	Border Length (in kms)
Sikkim	32
West Bengal	183
Assam	267
Arunachal Pradesh	217
