

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Geography — Contemporary India – I

CHAPTER 1: INDIA — SIZE AND LOCATION

ULTIMATE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS BANK WITH MODEL
ANSWERS

Strictly Aligned with the Latest NCERT Syllabus & CBSE Assessment
Architecture



HIGH-VALUE DELIVERABLES INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- **Exhaustive Question Sets:** Concise 1-Mark, structured 3-Mark, and thematic 5-Mark long-form explanations.
- **Spatial Competency Mapping:** Purpose-built map study indices and coordinates verification frameworks.
- **Mathematical & Time Logic:** Step-by-step breakdown of longitudinal time gaps and Standard Meridian computations.
- **Correction Portals:** Targeted guidance highlighting common errors regarding latitudinal vs longitudinal limits.

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SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. Why has 82°30'E been selected as the Standard Meridian of India? Explain its **FREQUENTLY REPEATED necessity.**

The selection of 82°30'E longitude as the Standard Meridian of India is a critical administrative necessity due to the following factors:

- **Extensive Longitudinal Extent:** India extends across roughly 30° of longitude from west to east (68°7'E to 97°25'E). This results in a time difference of nearly two hours between eastern Arunachal Pradesh and western Gujarat.
- **Preventing Local Time Chaos:** Without a uniform time standard, train schedules, flight operations, and national communications would face constant confusion due to shifting local times across states.
- **Central Alignment:** The 82°30'E longitude passes directly through Mirzapur (near Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh), offering a well-balanced mid-point for the entire country. It is also a multiple of 7°30', matching standard international time zone conventions (exactly 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time).



EXAM BOOSTER: THE 30° RULE

For every 1° of longitude, local solar time changes by exactly 4 minutes. With India's longitudinal width of approximately 30°, the calculation is: $30 \times 4 = 120$ minutes (exactly 2 hours gap between east and west extremes).

Q2. How has India's strategic location at the head of the Indian Ocean influenced **ANNUAL EXAM CLASSIC its international trade and cultural ties?**

India occupies a central position at the head of the Indian Ocean, which has provided unique historical and modern geopolitical advantages:

1. **Maritime Crossroads:** The Trans-Indian Ocean routes connect the industrial economies of Western Europe with East Asia, Australia, and the Americas, placing India at a natural trade crossroads.
2. **Peninsular Reach:** The Deccan Peninsula projects far into the Indian Ocean, helping India maintain close maritime connections with West Asia, Africa, and Europe from its western coast, and Southeast and East Asia from its eastern coast.
3. **Cultural Exchange:** For centuries, these sea routes—along with ancient land passes across the northern mountains—have allowed Indian ideas, scriptures (like the Upanishads and Ramayana), the decimal system, and prized commodities (spices and muslin) to reach global markets.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION COLLECTION

Q3. Explain why the difference between the durations of day and night is felt more distinctly in Jammu and Kashmir compared to Kanyakumari.

CBSE PAST YEAR

This difference is caused by the variation in latitude across the country:

- **Kanyakumari's Proximity to the Equator:** Kanyakumari is located at approximately 8°4'N latitude, very close to the Equator. At equatorial latitudes, the sun's rays hit the earth at a near-vertical angle year-round, keeping day and night durations nearly equal (a difference of less than 45 minutes).
- **Jammu and Kashmir's High Latitude:** Jammu and Kashmir lies much further north, near 37°N latitude. As you move away from the Equator toward the poles, the angle of the sun's rays changes more sharply with the seasons. This causes a noticeable difference between summer and winter day lengths, with daylight variations reaching up to 4 or 5 hours.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q4. State the exact latitudinal extent of India's mainland.

Between 8°4'N and 37°6'N latitudes.

Q5. State the exact longitudinal extent of India's mainland.

Between 68°7'E and 97°25'E longitudes.

Q6. Which prominent latitude divides India into nearly two equal halves?

The Tropic of Cancer (23°30'N).

Q7. What is the total land boundary length of India?

Approximately 15,200 kilometers.

Q8. What is the total length of India's coastline, including its island groups?

7,516.6 kilometers.

Q9. Which island group of India lies in the Arabian Sea?

The Lakshadweep Islands.

Q10. Name the body of water that separates India from Sri Lanka.

The Palk Strait.

Q11. What is India's position in the world in terms of land area?

India is the seventh-largest country in the world.

Q12. What percentage of the world's total geographical area does India occupy?

Approximately 2.4 percent.

Q13. Name the southernmost point of the Indian Union that was submerged under sea water during the 2004 Tsunami.

Indira Point.

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (2–3 MARKS)

Q14. How did the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 benefit India's maritime trade?

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 provided a direct maritime connection between the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. This route cut the sea distance between India and Europe by approximately 7,000 kilometers, reducing shipping times, lowering fuel costs, and greatly boosting trade with Western markets.

Q15. Name the Indian states that share a land border with Pakistan.

The Indian states and Union Territories sharing borders with Pakistan are:

- The States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Punjab.
- The Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



QUICK COORDINATE SUMMARY

- **North Limit:** 37°6'N (Ladakh)
- **South Limit:** 8°4'N (Kanyakumari)
- **West Limit:** 68°7'E (Ghuar Mota, Gujarat)
- **East Limit:** 97°25'E (Kibithu, Arunachal Pradesh)

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q16. Describe the size and dimensions of India, detailing its land boundaries, coastline, and the shape of its landmass.

India possesses distinct physical dimensions that highlight its scale as a subcontinent:

1. **Total Area:** India's landmass covers an area of 3.28 million square kilometers, making it the seventh-largest country globally, following Russia, Canada, the USA, China, Brazil, and Australia.
2. **North-to-South and East-to-West Extent:** The distance from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to Kanyakumari in the south measures 3,214 kilometers. The east-to-west distance from Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat measures 2,933 kilometers.
3. **Boundaries and Relief:** India is bordered by young fold mountains (the Himalayas) along its northwest, north, and northeast frontiers. South of about 22° north latitude, the landmass begins to taper, extending southward into the Indian Ocean and dividing it into the Arabian Sea to the west and the Bay of Bengal to the east.
4. **Border Lengths:** The country shares a land boundary of around 15,200 kilometers. Its total coastline, including the mainland along with the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep island groups, measures 7,516.6 kilometers.

SECTION 6: MAP-BASED QUESTIONS

Q17. Provide the explicit identification criteria for the primary geographical elements required for map evaluation.

For your map work examinations, focus on these key identification features:

- **Tropic of Cancer:** A dashed line passing through 8 states: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- **Standard Meridian:** A vertical line at 82°30'E passing through Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Island Positions:** The Lakshadweep group is located in the Arabian Sea southwest of the mainland, while the Andaman and Nicobar chain is situated in the Bay of Bengal southeast of the mainland.

SECTION 7: CASE-BASED QUESTIONS

SOURCE TEXT: INDIA'S ANCIENT HISTORICAL TIES WITH THE WORLD

"India's relations with the world have continued through the ages, but her land relationships are much older than her maritime contacts. The various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers, while the oceans restricted such interaction for a long time. These routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times. The ideas of the Upanishads and the Ramayana, the stories of Panchatantra, the Indian numerals and the decimal system thus could reach many parts of the world."

Q18. Based on the source text, answer the following questions:

(i) Why are India's land routes considered historically older than its sea routes?

Ancient travelers were able to cross mountain passes in the north long before seafaring technology developed enough to navigate the open oceans, which acted as a barrier for a long time.

(ii) Give examples of Indian cultural and scientific knowledge that spread across the globe via these ancient routes.

Key cultural exports included the concepts of the Upanishads, the epic stories of the Ramayana, the fables of the Panchatantra, along with mathematical discoveries like Indian numerals and the decimal system.

SECTION 8: ASSERTION AND REASON QUESTIONS

STANDARD EVALUATION DIRECTIONS

Evaluate the statements and select the correct option:

- A:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- B:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- C:** Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- D:** Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Q19. Assertion (A): The clocks across all regions of India show the exact same time despite a two-hour difference in local solar time between the eastern and western horizons.

Reason (R): Indian Standard Time is calculated uniformly based on the local time of the Standard Meridian ($82^{\circ}30'E$), which passes through Mirzapur.

Answer: A

Explanation: Both statements are true. Clocks across India show the same time because the country uses a single standard time zone based on the $82^{\circ}30'E$ Standard Meridian, overriding local variations in solar time.

SECTION 9: COMPETENCY-BASED QUESTIONS

Q20. If India decided to adopt two distinct standard time zones, what practical advantages and administrative challenges would arise?

Adopting two time zones would bring both benefits and complications:

- **Advantages:** Northeast India would gain an earlier time zone, matching their actual daylight hours. This would allow schools and offices to optimize daylight use, reducing energy consumption and increasing productivity.
- **Challenges:** Managing a country with two time zones would complicate rail and air traffic control. It could also create administrative confusion at borders between time zones and disrupt national broadcasting and communication networks.

SECTION 10: MOST IMPORTANT EXAM QUESTIONS

★ **HIGHEST PROBABILITY QUESTION:** Detail the names of all countries that share a land border with India, structured by their geographical direction.

India shares its land boundaries with seven countries, organized by their geographic direction:

1. **Northwest:** Pakistan and Afghanistan.
2. **North:** China (Tibet), Nepal, and Bhutan.
3. **East:** Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Additionally, India's southern maritime neighbors across the ocean consist of two island nations: **Sri Lanka** (separated by the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait) and the **Maldives** (located south of the Lakshadweep Islands).

SECTION 11: CHAPTER QUICK REVISION

INSTANT REVISION SUMMARIES

- **Total Area:** 3.28 Million Square Kilometers.
- **Tropic of Cancer States:** Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram.
- **Standard Meridian Coordinates:** 82°30'E Longitude.
- **Palk Strait:** The narrow channel of sea separating India from Sri Lanka.

SECTION 12: COMMON MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE

COMMON EXAM ERRORS TO AVOID:

1. **Confusing Cardinal Coordinates:** Students often incorrectly write the western longitude of Gujarat as 'W' (e.g., 68°7'W). Remember that because India is entirely in the Eastern Hemisphere, both its eastern and western coordinates must be marked as 'E'.
2. **Miswriting Northern Latitudes:** Similarly, do not mark Kanyakumari as 'S'. Since India lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere, both its northern and southern coordinates must be marked as 'N'.

SECTION 13: LAST-MINUTE REVISION SHEET

THE ULTIMATE GEOGRAPHY CHEAT SHEET

Core Geometry: India's north-south distance (3,214 km) is slightly longer than its east-west distance (2,933 km), despite both extents spanning roughly 30 degrees of coordinate width.

Maritime Position: No other nation shares a longer coastline along the Indian Ocean than India, which justifies the naming of the ocean after the country.