

India: Size and Location

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Subject: Social Science (Geography)

Class IX

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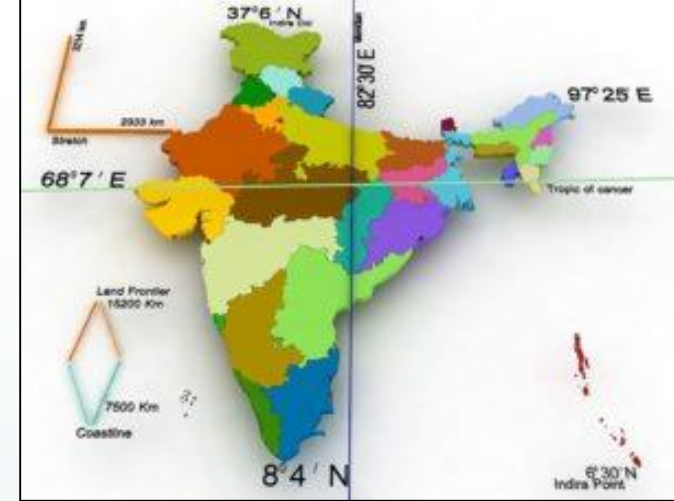


INTRODUCTION

Indian civilization is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. During the last 50 years India has made a remarkable progress in both social and economic spheres. India has also contributed significantly to the making of the world history.



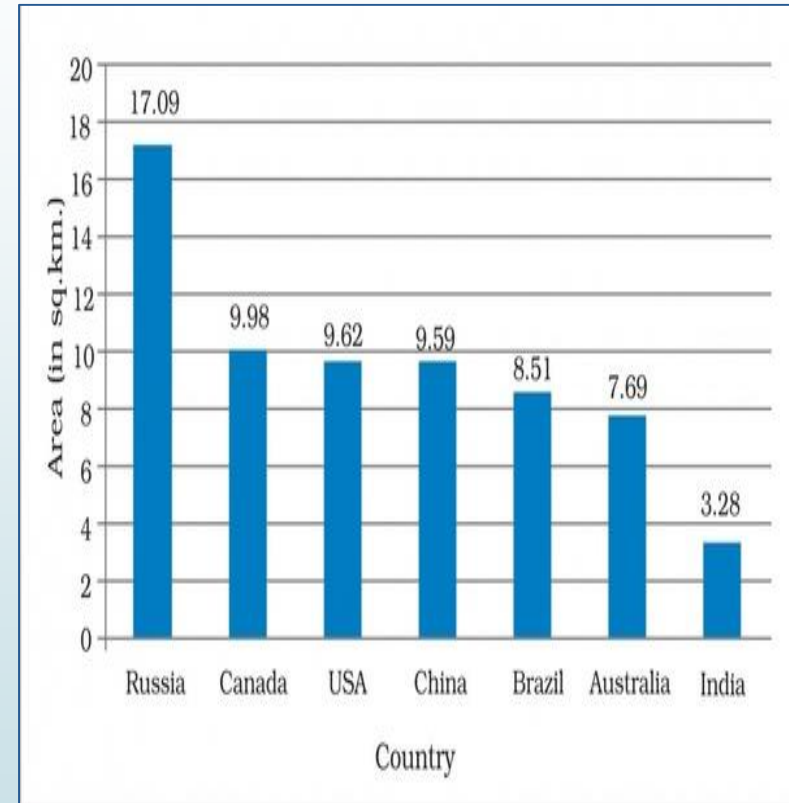
LOCATION



India is a vast country located in the Northern hemisphere. Its mainland extends between **latitudes $8^{\circ}4'N$** and **$37^{\circ}6'N$** and **longitude $68^{\circ}7'E$** and **$97^{\circ}25'E$** . India is divided into almost two equal parts by the Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'N$). It passes through the state of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram. Andaman and Nicobar islands situated in South-East of main island in Bay of Bengal Lakshadweep islands situated South-West of main land in Arabian Sea are the two groups of island belonging to India.

SIZE

Landmass of India has an area of **3.28 million sq km** which occupies 2.4% of the total geographical area of the world. India is the **seventh largest country** of the world, after Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brazil and Australia. India having a land boundary of about **15200 km** and the land of coastline including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands is about **7516.6 km**.



INDIAN STANDARD TIME (IST)

There is a time lag (period of time) of almost **two hours** between Gujarat in the West and Arunachal Pradesh in the East. Hence, time along the Standard Meridian of India ($82^{\circ}30'E$) passing through Mirzapur (in Uttar Pradesh) is taken as **Indian Standard Time (IST)** for the whole world. The latitudinal extend influences the duration of the day and night as one moves from South to North.

... INDIAN STANDARD TIME	
Adopted	1947
Difference with Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)	+ 5:30 hrs
Longitude reference	$82.5^{\circ}E$
Passing through	Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh
Central observatory	Shankargarh Fort, Allahabad district, Uttar Pradesh

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

India has an important strategic position in South Asia. It has 29 states and 8 union territories. India shares its land border with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the North West. China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the North, and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the East. Two island countries Sri Lanka and Maldives, lies to the South of India across the Indian Ocean. All these countries are part of the Indian sub-continent. India and Sri Lanka are separated by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Street and Gulf of Mannar while Maldives lies to the South of Lakshadweep. Thus India has a strong geographical and historical links with its neighbour.

Thank you