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Unit 1 : India Land and Climate

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Physical Form of India

India is a large country. In area, it is the seventh largest country in the world, and in population, it is ranked second. From north to south, it extends in length for about 3,200 kms. In the same way, it extends in width from Gujarat in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east for about 3000 kms. India's total area is 32,87,782 square kms.

To the north of India are located the mighty Himalayas. Its middle part is wider which narrows as one goes down the south. At its end, it becomes very narrow. This southern end is known as **Kanyakumari**.

India's southern end is surrounded by the seas and oceans. The Bay of Bengal is in the east, the Arabian Sea in the west and the Indian Ocean in the south. In the south are also located small island groups. Andaman and Nicobar Islands are located in the Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea.



Interesting Fact

India is the only country in the world which has an ocean (Indian Ocean) named after it.

India's Neighbours

Asia is the world's largest continent. India is situated in the south of Asia. The neighbouring countries which have a border with India are Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Sri Lanka, situated in the south, is also our neighbour. The Indian Ocean separates it from India.

Indian and its neighbouring countries



Interesting Fact

Nepal is surrounded by Indian states on three sides – Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Sikkim and West Bengal.



India's Land Surface

There is a great variety in India's land surface. It is not plain at every place. At some places, there are high mountains while at others, there are deep valleys. Some places have expansive plains while it is plateau at some place. Many rivers flow down from mountains into the plains. At many places, they form waterfalls.



Waterfall

Climate of India

Just like its land, India's climate too has a great variety. Some parts are extremely cold while some are very hot. Others get large amount of rains while some others receive no rainfall at all. The variety in landforms and climate affects our daily life.

Natural Diversions of India

On the basis of natural diversity, India can be divided into five divisions :

1. The Great Himalayan Range
2. The Great Northern Plains
3. The Indian Desert
4. The Southern Plateau
5. The Coastal Areas and Island Groups.



Interesting Fact

Mawsynram in Meghalaya receives the highest rainfall in the world.



Vocabulary

Bay : Part of sea or lake surrounded by land on three sides.

Island : Land completely surrounded by water.

Desert : Sandy area which has no water.

Plateau : Flat and high rising area.

Learnt by Now



- Areawise, India is the seventh largest country in the world while in population, it is the second.
- India's last point is Kanyakumari, located in the south.
- India is located on the southern edge of Asia.
- Our neighbours are Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.
- There is a great variety in India's land surface. It is not plain everywhere.
- India has five natural divisions.



Exercise

A. Tick (✓) the correct answer : (MCQs)

1. According to population, what is India's rank in the world ?

(a) First



(b) Second



(c) Third



2. Where are the Himalayas located ?

(a) In North India



(b) In East India



(c) In South India





3. Which is a neighbour of India ?
 (a) America (b) England (c) Nepal
4. India is divided into how many natural divisions ?
 (a) Four (b) Five (c) Three

B. Write answers to the following questions :

1. What is India's rank in the world, according to area ?
2. Which ocean is named after our country ?
3. Write names of the neighbours of India.
4. How is India's land surface ?
5. How is India's climate ?
6. Into how many physical divisions can India be divided ?

C. Fill in the blanks :

1. The Himalayas are located in the _____ of India.
2. India _____ down as one goes down to south.
3. Small _____ groups are located to India's south.
4. _____ is the world's largest continent.
5. Variety is also found in India's _____.

D. Tick (✓) the correct statements :

1. According to population, India is ranked seventh.
2. From the north to the south, India is 3200 km. long.
3. The last point of India is called Indira Point.
4. India is located to the north of Asia.
5. India's land surface is not plain everywhere.

E. Write the following :

1. India's length from north to south : _____
2. India's width from west to east : _____
3. India's total area : _____
4. The bay located in the east of India : _____
5. The ocean to the south of India : _____
6. The neighbour in the south of India : _____

■ Creative Task 

1. On an outline map of India, mark out India's neighbours.
2. On an outline map of India, mark the following :
 - India's last point – Kanyakumari.
 - The Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.
 - The Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.