



3

India and Its Neighbouring Countries



HERE WE GO.....

Focus On

- ❖ Location of India
- ❖ Physical Attributes
- ❖ Physical Divisions
- ❖ Political Divisions
- ❖ Unity in Diversity
- ❖ Our Neighbouring countries

Match the following and write the right character to say :

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. State through which the river Ganga flows | <input type="checkbox"/> | (a) Rajasthan |
| 2. Southern state that has coastal area | <input type="checkbox"/> | (b) Jammu & Kashmir |
| 3. State that has Thar Desert | <input type="checkbox"/> | (c) Tamil Nadu |
| 4. The state that has Himalayan mountain range running through it | <input type="checkbox"/> | (d) Uttar Pradesh |

India is one of the oldest **civilisation** in the world. It is at second rank in the world after China in terms of population while in terms of area, it is the seventh largest country of the world.

It is one of the most diverse nation in the world. It has a vast variety of **landforms** and cultures.

We will study more about our beautiful country in this chapter.

Location of India

Asia is the largest continent in the world. India is located in its southern part. It stretches for 2900 kilometres from east to west while from north to south, it stretches for 3200 kilometres. Its southern part is a peninsula, a land surrounded by water on three sides and connected on mainland by one side.

It's land boundary is about 15,200 kilometres long. In the north, India is surrounded by Himalayan mountain range while the **coastline** of the mainland is about 6,100 kilometres long.





Location of India in South Asia

Tip for Teacher : Show physical and political maps of India on an atlas. Mark some significant locations.

Physical Attributes

Various kinds of landforms are found in India. These are plains, deserts, mountains, hills, forests, plateaus, islands and coastlines. These are known as the **physical attributes** of a country. We can divide India into six main divisions on the basis of physical attributes.

Fact Byte

Indian Ocean is named after India. It is the only country which has an ocean named after it.

Physical Divisions

- ❖ The Northern Mountains
- ❖ The Great Indian Desert
- ❖ The Coastal Plains
- ❖ The Northern Plain
- ❖ The Peninsular Plateau
- ❖ The Island Groups

Physical map shows various kinds of landforms.

Political Divisions

India is divided into 29 **states** and 7 union territories including the National Capital Territory of Delhi. New Delhi is the **capital** of our country.

The country is divided into smaller units to govern it efficiently. There are two sets of governments in India for fair **administration** : **Central Government** in Delhi and the **State Governments** in each state. Central Government directly governs the Union Territories. These governments are elected by the people of the country.

FOLLOW IT

Conserve this unique diversity of India, it is our real heritage.



Unity in Diversity

India has a vast variety of features. It is called the land of diversity in unity.

This diversity can be witnessed in everything, be it languages, landforms, cultures, clothing and food eaten. The great Himalayas are snow-covered while north-eastern states and Kerala remain green throughout the year. Some places have heavy rainfall all the year while some places have deserts too that remain very hot and receive scanty rainfall.

There is a great diversity found in the citizens of India. They have different customs and cultures, they speak differently, they dress differently, they celebrate different festivals and their food habits are different.

Besides this diversity, there is a unity that is seen all over the country. The people like each other's culture. They celebrate festivals together. They share food habits and clothings. It makes our country a unique country.

Our Neighbouring Countries

Pakistan and Afghanistan are our neighbours in the north-west. Nepal, Bhutan and China share their boundaries with India in the North. Bangladesh and Myanmar are our neighbouring countries in the east.

Sri Lanka and Maldives are islands that lie to the South of India.



India's neighbours

Fact Byte

SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) is an association formed by India, with all neighbouring countries to promote peace and security.

Flash On

- ◆ India is located in South Asia.
- ◆ It is the second most populous and seventh largest country in the world.
- ◆ On the basis of physical features India has six main divisions : The Northern Mountains, The Northern Plains, The Great Indian Desert, The Peninsular Plateau, The Coastal Plains and The Islands.
- ◆ It is divided into 29 States and 7 territories including the National Capital Territory of Delhi.



Stir Up Your Mind

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- India is located on this continent :
 (a) Africa (b) Australia (c) Asia
- Population wise, India's rank in the world is :
 (a) third (b) second (c) first
- India is called the land of unity in :
 (a) dresses (b) food (c) diversity
- In the east, India shares its borders with :
 (a) China (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh
- The number of union territories in India is :
 (a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8

B. Fill in the blanks :

Delhi, Rajasthan, 15200, second, states

- India is the _____ most populous country of the world.
- The land boundary of India is about _____ kilometers long.
- The Thar desert is located in the state of _____.
- India is divided into small units that are known as _____.
- _____ is the National Capital Territory.

C. Write T for True and F for False :

- India is located in Europe.
- India is the seventh largest country in the world.
- India is called 'the land of unity in diversity'.
- There are 25 states in India.
- Bangladesh is the eastern neighbouring country of India.

D. Match the following :

Column A

- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- Delhi
- Union Territories
- States

Column B

- 7
- 29
- Lies to the east of India
- Lies to the north of India
- National Capital Territory



E. Answer the following in brief :

1. Name the neighbouring countries of India.
2. What are the physical attributes of India?
3. What is Indian Peninsula?
4. Define 'India is a land of unity in diversity'.
5. How many states and union territories does India have?

F. Answer the following in detail :

1. Describe the location of India.
2. What are six main physical divisions of India?
3. Define political division of India.



Practice Time

QUIZ

- A.**
1. What is a peninsula?
 2. What are plateaus?
 3. Which is India's largest desert?
 4. Write four different languages spoken in India.
 5. Write the names of Union Territories.

DO IT

A. Divide class in six parts. Each group will make a collage on customs of six different states. Information about language spoken, literacy, food should also be added.

B. Maps

On an outline map of India, mark the following neighbouring countries of India.

- Nepal
- Bangladesh
- China
- Afghanistan
- Myanmar
- Srilanka
- Pakistan
- Bhutan
- Maldives

HOTSPOT

Aman's father is an army officer. He is posted at Siachen glacier. With which two neighbouring countries does Siachen glacier share its boundaries?

YOUR TURN

Collect informations about all neighbouring countries of India, such as :

- Their main religion : _____
- Their literacy rate : _____
- Their population : _____
- Their area : _____

Also find out information about their customs.

