

GEOGRAPHY

Chapter 1: India – Size and Location



India – Size and Location

India has a long and a remarkable history. It is a country which has abundant natural resources. After independence, India has made tremendous progress in the fields of agriculture and technology. India is one of the oldest civilisations and have a remarkable history. After Independence from British rule, it achieved multi-faceted socio-economic progress. Also made a remarkable progress in the field of agriculture, industry, technology and overall economic development.

India – Location and Size



Map showing the location of India in the world

- If you look at the above map, you would find that India lies to the north of the 0° latitude, i.e., Equator. She thus entirely lie in the northern hemisphere. Its mainland extends from latitude $8^{\circ}4'N$ to latitude $37^{\circ}6'N$. Its longitudinal extent is from $68^{\circ}7'E$ to $97^{\circ}25'E$.
- India also lies to the east of the 0° longitude, the Prime Meridian. She thus lies in the eastern hemisphere.
- India is divided into almost two equal parts by the Tropic of Cancer. It passes through eight Indian states—Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.
- India is a part of the Asian continent. It is the seventh largest country in the world and the

third largest country in Asia.

- It has two main groups of islands—the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and the Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea.
- India occupies about 2.4% of the total geographical area of the world.
- The young fold Himalayan Mountains form the boundary of India in the northwest, north and northeast.
- India is a peninsula which tapers to the south dividing the Indian Ocean into the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- India has a vast longitudinal extent. There is a difference of two hours when one travels from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh.
- To maintain one standard time, the time along the Standard Meridian of India passing through Uttar Pradesh is taken as the standard time for the whole country.

Its Size

- Total Area of India is 3.28 million square km which is 2.4 percent of the total area of the world.
- It is seventh largest country in the world in terms of landmass.
- It has land boundary of about 15,200 km and the total length of the coast line of the mainland including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands is 7,516.6 km.
- In the northwest, north and north east of India, young folds mountains bounds it.
- South of about 22° north latitude, India narrows and finally extends towards the Indian Ocean. It also divides it into two seas, the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on its east.
- The latitudinal and longitudinal extent of the mainland is about 30°.
- India's east-west extent appears to be smaller than the north-south extent.
- The time along the Standard Meridian (82°30' E) passing through Mirzapur in UP is taken as the Indian Standard Time for whole country.
- The time gap between Arunachal Pradesh present in the east and Gujarat present in the west

is about 2 hours. The latitudinal extent influences the duration of day and night, as one moves from south to north.



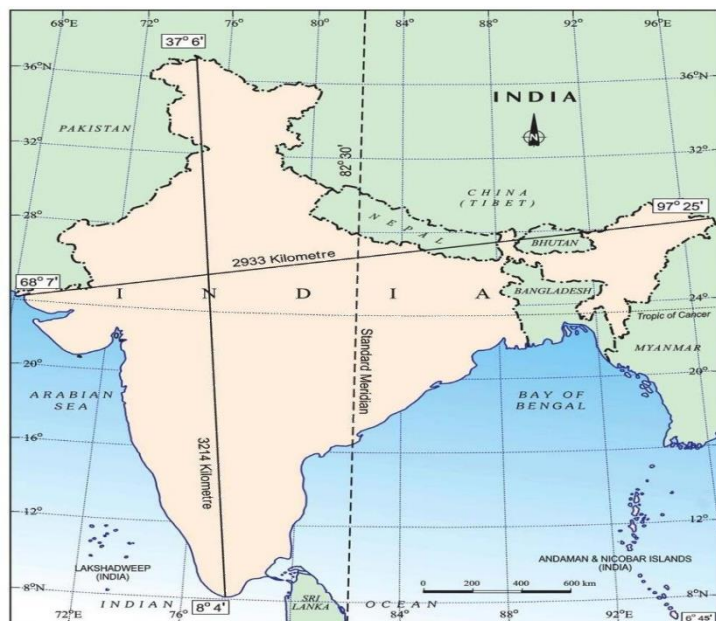
The Tropic of Cancer passes through the middle of the country through eight Indian states. She thus experiences tropical type of climate.

India and the World

- India is almost located centrally between the east and the west of Asia. It lies in the southern part of the Asian continent.
- The oceanic routes which link Europe in the West with the East Asian countries give an important strategically central location to India which helped establish oceanic trade links with the other countries in the past.
- The Deccan Peninsula which extends into the Indian Ocean has helped India in maintaining close relations with Africa, West Asia and Europe from its western coast and East Asia and Southeast Asia from its eastern coast.
- The Indian Ocean is named after India because India occupies an important strategic position in the ocean.
- India had trade relations with other parts of the world through land routes which were used

long before the oceanic routes were used.

- Its mountain passes provided land routes to various travellers during the ancient and mediaeval times.
- The land and sea routes made the existence of trade and cultural exchanges of India possible with the other countries. While the Indian decimal number system travelled far and wide, India was influenced by Greek architecture and sculpture during the ancient period and the West Asian style of architecture since the early mediaeval period.



Time along the Standard Meridian of India ($82^{\circ}30'$) passing through Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh taken as

The Neighbours of India

- India has 29 states and 7 Union Territories. Area wise, Rajasthan is the largest and Goa is the smallest state.
- India is strategically located in the south of Asia. It is divided into 29 states and seven union territories. While Rajasthan is the largest state, Goa is the smallest state.
- India shares its boundaries with Afghanistan and Pakistan in the northwest, China, Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east. In the south, Sri Lanka and Maldives are its neighbours.

While Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar, the islands of Maldives are located to the south of the Lakshadweep Islands.

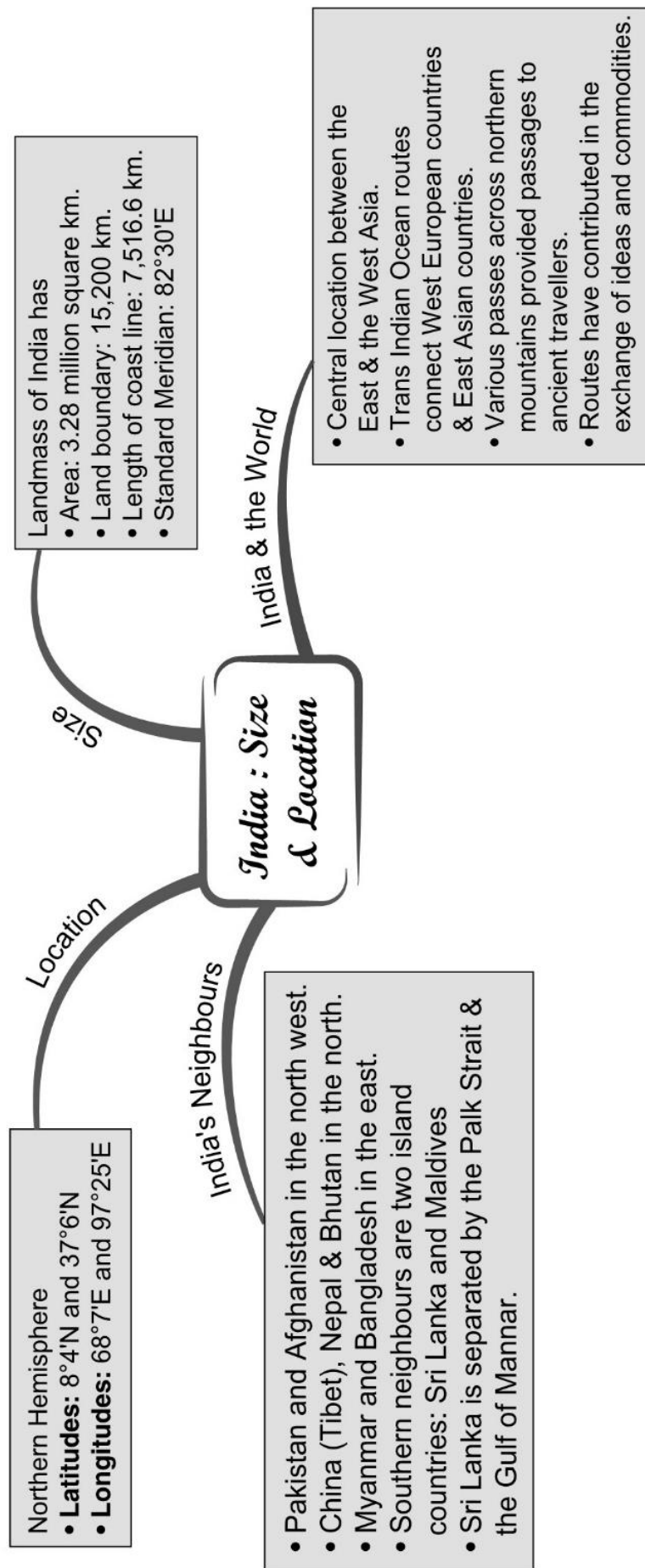
Political Map of India



Map showing India's neighbours



CHAPTER- 1 INDIA : SIZE & LOCATION



Important Questions

Multiple Choice questions-

Question 1. The area of India is about-

- (a) 3.82 million sq. kilometres
- (b) 3.28 million sq. kilometres
- (c) 3.16 million sq. kilometres
- (d) 3.61 million sq. kilometres

Question 2. India has a land boundary of about-

- (a) 15,860 km.
- (b) 15,250 km.
- (c) 15,680 km.
- (d) 15,200 km.

Question 3. How much times is India bigger than France?

- (a) 6 times
- (b) 16 times
- (c) 4 times
- (d) 9 times

Question 4. Standard Meridian of India passes through-

- (a) Uttaranchal
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Mirzapur
- (d) Alipur

Question 5. India has Union Territories-

- (a) 28
- (b) 7
- (c) 6
- (d) 14

Question 6. ocean will have to be crossed by a ship going from Singapore to Mogadishu?

- (a) Indian Ocean
- (b) Passific Ocean
- (c) Arctic Ocean

(d) Antarctic Ocean

Question 7. Which of these countries is located towards the east of India?

(a) Nepal

(b) Sri Lanka

(c) Bangladesh

(d) China

Question 8. The longitudinal extent of India is km.

(a) 3000

(b) 3200

(c) 3020

(d) 3060

Question 9. The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through-

(a) Rajasthan

(b) Chhattisgarh

(c) Orissa

(d) Tripura

Question 10. The capital of Mizoram is-

(a) Imphal

(b) Kohima

(c) Agartala

(d) Aizwal

Question 11. The easternmost longitude of India is-

(a) $97^{\circ} 25' E$

(b) $68^{\circ} 7' E$

(c) $77^{\circ} 6' E$

(d) $82^{\circ} 32' E$

Question 12. Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim have common frontiers with-

(a) China

(b) Bhutan

(c) Nepal

(d) Myanmar

Question 13. If you intend to visit the Island Kavaratti during your Summer Vacations, which one of the following Union Territory of India will you be going to-

- (a) Pondicherry
- (b) Lakshadweep
- (c) Andaman and Nicobar
- (d) Diu and Daman

Question 14. My pen friend hails from a country which does not share land boundary with India, identify the country-

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Tajikistan
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Nepal

Question 15. Which one of the following is the smallest state in Indian

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Goa
- (d) Uttaranchal

Very Short Questions:

1. In which hemisphere does India lie?
2. What is the latitudinal extent of India?
3. What is the longitudinal extent of India?
4. Name the parallel of latitude which divides India roughly into two equal halves.
5. Name the two seas located around India.
6. What is the southernmost point of the Union of India?
7. In which year did 'Indira Point' submerge under water due to tsunami?
8. What is the total area of the Indian landmass?
9. What is the size of India among the countries of the world?
10. What is the total land frontier of India?

Short Questions:

1. Write the size and extent of India.?
2. Explain why 82°30' E an odd value has been chosen as the standard meridian of India.
3. Why is the difference between the durations of day and night hardly felt at

Kanyakumari but not so in Kashmir?

4. What is a subcontinent? Name the countries that constitute the Indian subcontinent. How is India different from other countries of Asia?
5. Justify the naming of Indian Ocean after India.
6. What do you know about India and her neighbours? [HOTS]
7. India's land routes have been important since ancient times. Explain.

Long Questions:

1. Why are Ahmedabad and Kolkata able to see the noon sun exactly overhead twice a year but not Delhi?
2. India occupies an important strategic position in south Asia. Discuss. [HOTS]
3. Describe how the geographical features of India have fostered unity and homogeneity in the Indian society.
4. Locate and Label the Indian States and Capital on the outline map of India.
5. On the political map given locate and label the following.
 - (a) Tropic of cancer
 - (b) Standard meridian with degrees.
 - (c) Union Territories- Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu.

Assertion Reason Questions:

1. In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) followed by a statement of Reason (R) is given. Choose the correct option out of the choices given below each question.

Assertion (A) : The Southernmost point of the Indian Union, 'Indira Point, got submerged under the sea water in 2004.

Reason (R) : In 2004 Indian Islands and coastal areas were hit by a huge Tsunami.

A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

C) A is true, but R is false.

D) A is false, but R is true.

2. In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) followed by a statement of Reason (R) is given. Choose the correct option out of the choices given below each question.

Assertion (A) : India is bounded by young fold mountains in the North-West, North and North-East.

Reason (R) : The Himalayas lie on the Northern part of India.

A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true, but R is false.
- D) A is false, but R is true.

Case Study Based Question:

1. Read the source and answer the questions that follow.

India is a vast country. Lying entirely in the Northern Hemisphere the main land extends between latitudes $8^{\circ}4'$ N and $37^{\circ}6'$ N and longitudes $68^{\circ}7'$ E and $97^{\circ}25'$ E. The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'$ N) divides the country into almost two equal parts.

To the South-East and South-West of the mainland, lie the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep islands in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea respectively. The Southernmost point of the Indian Union- 'Indira Point' got submerged under the sea water in 2004 during the Tsunami.

The land mass of India has an area of 3.28 million square km. India's total area accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the total geographical area of the world.

India is the seventh largest country of the world.

- (1) What makes India unique in Asia?

- A) Its food
- B) Its economy
- C) Its location
- D) Its culture

- (2) Why is the Tropic of Cancer significant for India?

- A) It is a plateau
- B) It is the highest peak of the South India
- C) It is a salt water lake
- D) Due to this India's climate has characteristics of tropical as well as subtropical climates.

- (3) Indira Point is located in which islands group of India?

- A) The Lakshadweep islands group
- B) The Aminidivi islands group
- C) The Andaman and Nicobar islands group
- D) None of the above

- (4) India comes after which country in terms of area?

- A) Russia
- B) China

- C) Canada
- D) All of these

2. Read the source and answer the questions that follow.

India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km and the total length of the coastline of the mainland, including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, is 7,516.6 km. India is bounded by the young fold mountains in the North-West, North and North-East. South of about 22° North latitude, it begins to taper, and extends towards the Indian Ocean, dividing it into two seas, the Arabian Sea on the West and the Bay of Bengal on its East.

(1) The length of Indian coastline, excluding the Andaman and Nicobar and the Lakshadweep islands group is

- A) 6100Km
- B) 7516.6Km
- C) 7000Km
- D) 5100Km

(2) India is bounded by which of the following mountains in the North?

- A) The Javadi hills
- B) The Nilgiris
- C) The Himalayas
- D) None of these

(3) The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal are part of which of the following oceans?

- A) The Pacific ocean
- B) The Atlantic ocean
- C) The Antarctic ocean
- D) The Indian ocean

(4) The Arabian Sea forms a part of the principal sea route between and

- A) India, Australia
- B) India, China
- C) India, Europe
- D) India, the USA

Answer Key:

MCQ

1. (b) 3.28 million sq. kilometres
2. (d) 15,200 km.

3. (a) 6 times
4. (c) Mirzapur
5. (b) 7
6. (a) Indian Ocean
7. (c) Bangladesh
8. (a) 3000
9. (c) Orissa
- 10.(d) Aizwal
- 11.(a) 97° 25' E
- 12.(b) Bhutan
- 13.(b) Andaman and Nicobar
- 14.(b) Tajikistan
- 15.(c) Goa

Very Short Answer:

1. India lies in the Northern hemisphere.
2. The latitudinal extent of India is between 8°4' N (southernmost) and 37°6' N and (northernmost) latitude.
3. The longitudinal extent of India is 68°7' E (westernmost) to 97°25' E (easternmost) longitude.
4. The parallel of latitude which roughly divide India into two equal halves is the Tropic of Cancer (23° 30' N).
5. The two seas located around India are the Arabian Sea in the west and the Bay of Bengal in the east.
6. Southernmost point of the Union of India is Indira Point.
7. In 2004 'Indira Point' got submerged under the sea water.
8. The landmass of India has an area of 3.28 million square km. It is 2.4% of the total area of the world.
9. India is the seventh largest country in the world.
10. The total land frontier of India is 15,200 km.

Short Answer:

Ans: 1. (a) India is the 7th largest country in the world. It has an area of 3.28 million square km. It accounts for 2.4% of the world's total area.

(b) India has a land frontier of 15,200 km.

(c) India has a coastline of 7516.6 km including the Andaman and Nicobar islands and the Lakshadweep islands.

Ans: 2. The odd value has been chosen as the standard meridian because the longitudinal extent of India is $68^{\circ}7' \text{ E}$ to $97^{\circ}25' \text{ E}$ and this meridian passes through the centre of India.

It passes through Mirzapur i.e. the centre of India. Then there is an understanding among the countries of the world that the degrees of the meridian should be divisible by 712 i.e. $82^{\circ} 30' \text{ E}$. This enables us to overcome the difference of 2 hours of time between Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat. The time is Indian Standard Time.

Ans: 3. The difference in the durations of day and night and Kanyakumari and Kashmir are respectively due to their latitudinal locations. Kanyakumari is located closer to the equator and experiences a maximum difference of 45 minutes between day and night. However, Kashmir lies further away from the equator and experience a significant gap between the duration of day and night that can extend to as much as 3-5 hours.

Ans: 4. A subcontinent is a distinctive geographical unit which stands out distinctively from rest of the region because of its large size, varied climates, varied relief etc.

Countries that make up the Indian subcontinent are – India at the centre, Pakistan in the west, Nepal and China (Tibet) in the north, Bhutan and Bangladesh in the east.

India is different from other countries of Asia regarding climate, vegetation and culture.

Ans: 5. India ocean is named after India because:

- (a) India has a long coastline on the Indian Ocean.
- (b) India has a central location between east and west Asia.
- (c) India's southernmost extension, the Deccan Peninsula, protrudes into the Indian Ocean which makes it significant to international trade done through the Indian Ocean.
- (d) India was the favorite destination of the traders of the world.

Ans: 6. (a) India occupies an important strategic position in south-east Asia. India has 29 states, 6 Union

Territories and one National Capital Territory.

(b) India shares her land borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the north-west, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north, and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east. Our southern neighbours across the sea consists of two island countries i.e. Sri Lanka and Maldives.

(c) Sri Lanka is separated from India by Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar while Maldives islands are situated to the south of the Lakshadweep islands.

Ans: 7. (a) India's contacts with the outside world have continued through the ages, but her relationships

through the land routes are much older than her maritime contacts.

(b) The various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers. These routes (Kyber and Bolan pass) across the mountains have contributed

in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times.

(c) The ideas of Upanishads and the Ramayana, the stories of Panchatantra, the Indian numerals,

the decimal system could reach many parts of the world through the land routes. The spices and muslin cloth along with other commodities were taken from India to other countries. The Greek sculpture and the architectural style of dome and minarets from west Asia can be seen in many parts of our country. This is the result of the exchange of commodities and ideas movement of people.

Long Answer:

Ans: 1. The sun's apparent movement towards north and south of the equator is within two tropics.

(a) All the places located within the tropics have overhead sun twice a year.

(b) Both Ahmedabad and Kolkata lie to the south of the Tropic of Cancer. That is why these two stations see the noon sun overhead twice a year.

(c) Delhi is located at 29°N latitude much to the north of Tropic of Cancer.

(d) The sun's rays are near overhead in sub-tropical zone. It will never see noon sun overhead, at anytime of the year.

Ans: 2. (a) The Indian landmass has a central location between the east and the west Asia. India is a

southward extension of the Asian continent.

(b) The trans Indian Ocean routes which connect the countries of Europe in the west and the countries of east Asia provide a strategic central location to India.

(c) The part that is attached to the Asian continent connects India through the land routes and mountain passes to the various countries lying to its north, west and east.

(d) The Deccan Peninsula protrudes into the Indian Ocean, thus helping India to establish close contact with west Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast and southeast and east Asia from the eastern coast.

Ans: 3. India has a distinct physical and cultural identity: India's unity and homogeneity have been enabled by its physical diversity i.e., physical features.

(a) The lofty mountains in the north which run east-west for thousands of kilometres. They provide a natural wall against all possible intrusions. It gives India an intact structure.

(b) The southern part of India is surrounded by the seas and oceans on the sides. These physical features have also ensured that the people from outside could enter India only through well defended routes through sea or passes in the mountains.

(c) Standard meridian 82°30' has been taken as local time all over India providing uniformity.

(d) Rivers and their tributaries provide irrigation facility throughout the country bring uniform

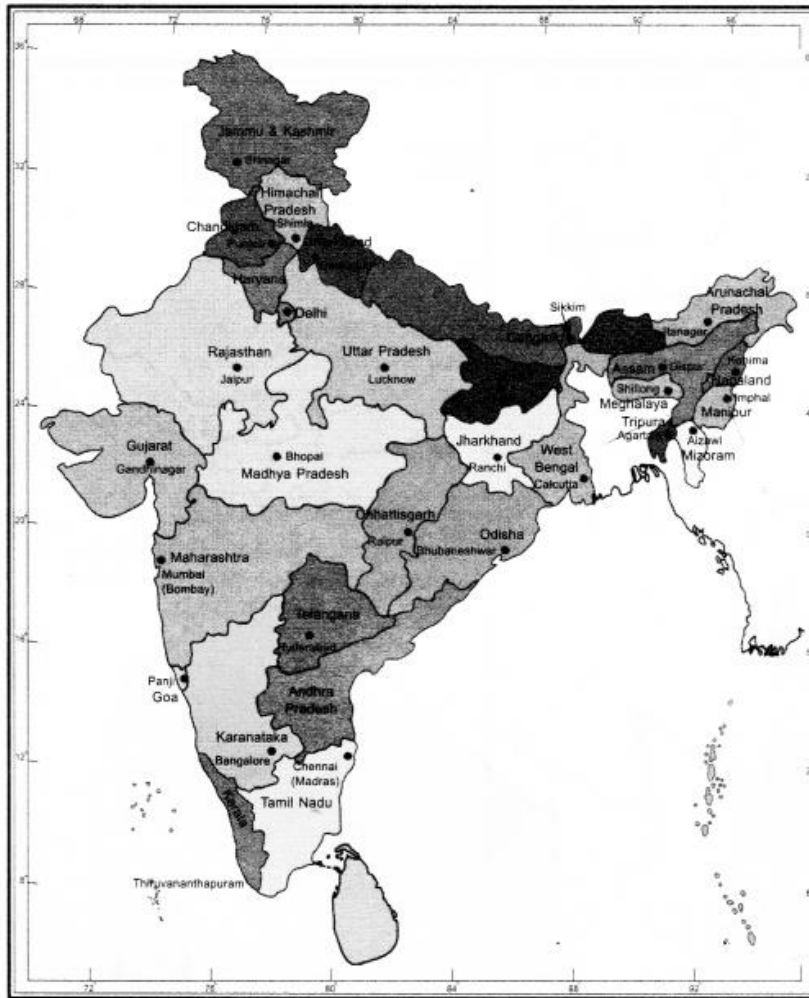
development.

(e) Monsoons foster unity. Many festivals are associated with it. Apart from that agricultural and domestic needs are also met by monsoons.

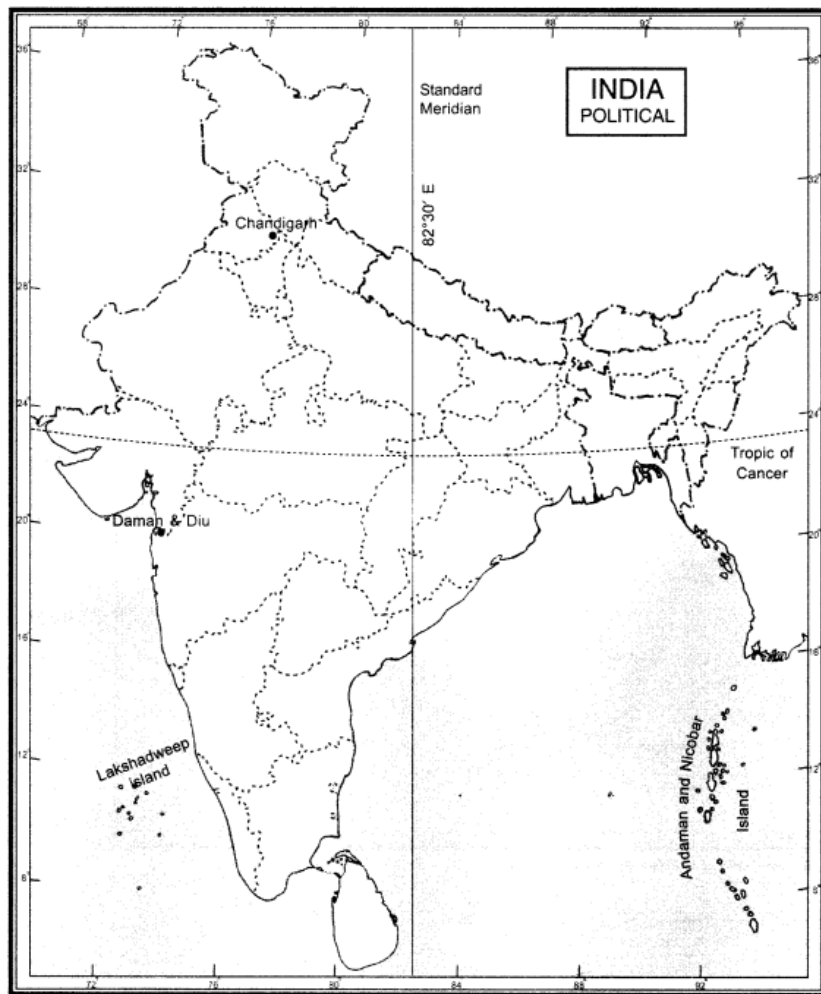
Thus, by adopting new norms and values and accepting as their own, unity and homogeneity of India has been promoted.

Ans:

4.



Ans: 5



Assertion Reason Answer:

1. A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
2. A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Case Study Answer:

1. Answer:

- (1) C) Its location
- (2) D) Due to this India's climate has characteristics of tropical as well as subtropical climates.
- (3) C) The Andaman and Nicobar islands group
- (4) D) All of these

2. Answer:

- (1) A) 6100Km
- (2) C) The Himalayas
- (3) D) The Indian ocean
- (4) C) India, Europe

