

India is an ancient civilisation but now it is a developing nation. It has shown remarkable progress in various fields.

Location

- India lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere.
- India's mainland extends between $8^{\circ} 4' N$ and $37^{\circ} 8' N$ latitudes, and $68^{\circ} 7' E$ and $97^{\circ} 25' E$ longitudes.
- The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ} 30' N$) divides India into two almost equal parts.
- The island groups of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar are also part of India.

Size

- Covering an area of 3.28 million square kilometres, India's total area is 2.4% of the total geographical area of the world.
- India is the world's seventh largest country with a land boundary of about 15,200 km, with total length of the coastline being 7,516.6 km.
- India's east-west extent appears to be smaller than the north-south extent.
- India's latitudinal and longitudinal extent is about 30 degrees.
- India's standard time is based on 82.30 degrees E meridian, which passes near Mirzapur in UP.
- Latitudinal extent influences duration of the day and night.

India and the World

- The Indian landmass is centrally located between West and East Asia.
- The trans Indian ocean routes connect countries in the west and countries in the east.
- India's protruding Deccan Peninsula helped India to establish close contacts with West Asia, Africa and Europe, South-east and East Asia.
- India's contacts with the world via land routes are much more than her maritime

contacts.

- India is the only nation which has a ocean named after it.
- India has contributed a lot to the world in forms of ideas, philosophies (Upanishads, Ramayana, Panchtantra) and mathematics (Indian numerals and decimal system).
- In exchange, India's architecture was influenced by Greek sculpture and architectural styles from West Asia.

India's Neighbours

- India has an important position in South Asia and has 29 States and 7 Union Territories.
- India shares its boundaries with Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan.
- The southern neighbours across the sea consist of the two island countries, namely Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by Palk Strait, a narrow strip of sea.
- India always has and had strong geographical and historical links with her neighbours.
- India stands apart from the rest of Asia.