



Basic Facts Of India

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**Believe you can and you're halfway there."
— Theodore Roosevelt**

Coordinates & Time Zone

- On Earth, there are **181 imaginary lines of latitude** and **360 of longitude**.
- Possible directions for **lines of latitude**: North, South
- Possible directions for **lines of longitude**: East, West
- A change of **one degree in latitude** results in a difference of **111 km**.
- A change of **one degree in longitude** results in a **four-minute difference in time**.
- The Earth takes **four minutes** to **rotate one degree** (**1 hour = 15 degrees**).
- Latitude and longitude are used for **determining location**, but only **longitude is used for determining time**.

Example Calculations:

- If Ram and Ravi travelled 10 degrees East and West from Greenwich, respectively, what is the time difference between their current locations?

$$20 * 4 = 80 \text{ minutes}$$

- If it is noon in Greenwich, what is the time at 60 degrees East longitude?

$$60 / 15 = 4 \text{ PM}$$

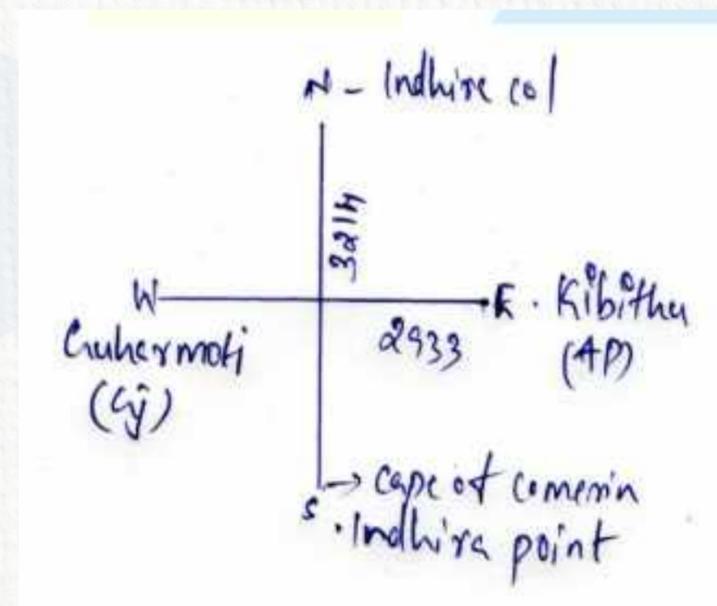
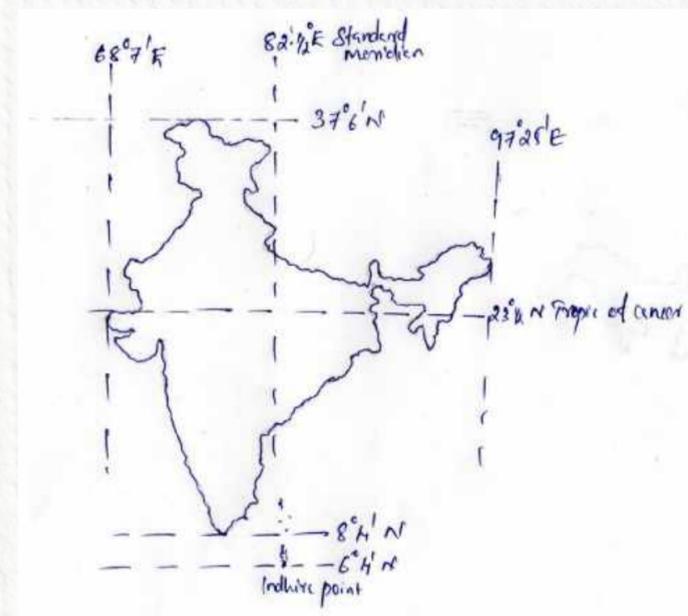
- If the time in Greenwich is 6 AM, which longitude passes through a region where the time is 11 AM?

$$11 - 6 = 5 \text{ hours}$$

$$5 * 15 = 75 \text{ degrees East}$$

India's Location

- India is located in the **northeastern part of the Northern Hemisphere.**
- India is situated in the **southern part of Asia.**
- India lies between the **temperate and tropical zones.**
- India's climate: Tropical Monsoon, hence India is a **tropical country.**
- India's latitudinal extent: **$8^{\circ} 4'$ North – $37^{\circ} 6'$ North**
- India's longitudinal extent: **$68^{\circ} 7'$ East – $97^{\circ} 25'$ East**



Extreme Points of India

- Northernmost point of India: **Indira Col** (Ladakh - Siachen - Karakoram Range - $35^{\circ} 61'$ N)
- Southernmost point of India / Southernmost point of the Indian Union: **Indira Point** (Great Nicobar Island - Andaman and Nicobar - $6^{\circ} 41'$ N)
- Old names for Indira Point: **Parsons Point, Pygmalion Point**
- Westernmost point of India: **Guhar moti (Gujarat) - $68^{\circ} 71'$ East**
- Easternmost point of India: **Kibithu (Arunachal Pradesh) - $97^{\circ} 25'$ East**
- Point Zero of India / Central city of India: **Nagpur**
- Southernmost point of Peninsular India / Southernmost point of the Indian subcontinent / Southernmost point of the Indian mainland: **Cape Comorin / Kanyakumari – $8^{\circ} 4'$ North**

Extreme Points by State/Union Territory

Northernmost:

- State: **Himachal Pradesh**
- Union Territory: **Ladakh**
- Capital City: **Srinagar OR Leh**

Southernmost:

- State: **Tamil Nadu**
- Union Territory: **Andaman and Nicobar**
- Capital City: **Thiruvananthapuram**

Easternmost:

- State: **Arunachal Pradesh**
- Union Territory: **Andaman and Nicobar**
- Capital City: **Kohima**

Westernmost:

- State: **Gujarat**
- Union Territory: **Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu / Lakshadweep**
- Capital City: **Mumbai / Kavaratti**



Tropic of Cancer

- The most important geographical line passing through India.
- The **latitudinal line** passing through the **central part** of India.
- The latitudinal line that divides India into **two equal halves**.
- Indian states through which the Tropic of Cancer passes - **8:**

Code: രാമ ജപമി ഗുചത്ര (RaMa JaPaMi GuChaTra)

1. Rajasthan
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Jharkhand
4. West Bengal
5. Mizoram
6. Gujarat
7. Chhattisgarh
8. Tripura

- Easternmost state in India through which the Tropic of Cancer passes: **Mizoram**
- Westernmost state in India through which the Tropic of Cancer passes: **Gujarat**
- Number of Indian states through which the Tropic of Cancer passes that share a border with other countries: **5 (Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram)**
- River that crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice: **Mahi River**
- Countries through which the Tropic of Cancer passes: **17 Countries, 3 Continents, and 6 Water Bodies.**
- North America: Bahamas (Archipelago), Mexico
- Africa: Egypt, Libya, Niger, Algeria, Mali, Western Sahara, Mauritania
- Asia: Taiwan, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia
- Water Bodies: Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Taiwan Strait, Red Sea, Gulf of Mexico

Other Important Latitude-Related Facts

- River that crosses the **Equator** twice: **Congo / Zaire River**
- River that crosses the Tropic of Capricorn twice: **Limpopo River (South Africa)**
- Indian metropolitan city closest to the Tropic of Cancer: **Ahmedabad / Kolkata**

Indian Subcontinent

- The Indian subcontinent comprises **7 countries** that are part of the **Indo-Australian Plate**.
- The 7 countries of the Indian subcontinent are: **India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Maldives**.
- Largest / Most populous country in the Indian subcontinent: **India**
- Largest river in the Indian subcontinent: **Indus River**
- Largest river in India (within its current borders): **Ganges River**
- Largest river in Peninsular India: **Godavari River**

- Boundaries of the Indian subcontinent:
 - Northern border: **Himalayas**
 - Southern border: **Indian Ocean**
 - Eastern border: **Purvanchal**
 - Western border: **Hindu Kush**
- There are a total of **247** islands in the Indian subcontinent.
- Southernmost tip of the Indian subcontinent: **Kanyakumari**

Indian Standard Meridian (ISM)

- The only time zone line passing through India: **82.5° East – Indian Standard Meridian (ISM)**.
- States through which the Indian Standard Meridian passes - **5: (Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha)**
- The time adopted as India's local time is the time at **Mirzapur, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh** (or Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh), which lies on the Indian Standard Meridian.
- Another country with the same time zone as India: **Sri Lanka**
- India's local time is **5 hours and 30 minutes** ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Indian Standard Time = **GMT + 5.30 HOURS**

- Example: If the time in London is 2 AM, what is the time in India?
2 AM + 5.30 = 7.30 AM

India's Statistics

- Area of India: **32,87,263 sq. km**
- Population of India: **121 Crore (1,21,08,54,977)** As per 2011 census
- Literacy rate of India: **74.04 %**
- Sex Ratio of India: **943 females / 1000 males**
- North-South distance of India: **3214 km**
- East-West distance of India: **2933 km**
- Land border of India: **15200 km**

India's Global Rankings:

- India accounts for **2.42%** of the world's land area.
- Rank of India by area: **7th**
- 10 Largest countries in the world (**Code: RuCCU BAI KA**):

1. Russia – Moscow
2. Canada – Ottawa
3. China – Beijing
4. US – Washington D.C.
5. Brazil – Brasília
6. Australia – Canberra
7. India – New Delhi
8. Argentina – Buenos Aires
9. Kazakhstan – Astana
10. Algeria – Algiers

- Rank of India by population: **1st**
- India accounts for **17.5%** of the world's total population.
- Population density of India: **382/sq km**
- Rank of India by forest area: **10th**
- India accounts for **1.72%** of the world's total forest area.

India's Neighboring Countries:

- Total neighboring countries of India: **9** (Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Maldives - Note: The list provided originally includes only land-bordering ones for the count 9. The subsequent list counts 7 land borders. I will correct the total for clarity by including maritime neighbours as separate facts below.)

- Countries sharing a land border with India - **7**: (Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar)
- Largest neighbouring country of India: **China**
- Largest country sharing a border with India: **China**
- Smallest country sharing a land border with India: **Bhutan**
- Country with which India shares the longest land border: **Bangladesh (4096 km)**

- 2nd longest: China
- 3rd longest: Pakistan
- 4th longest: Nepal
- 5th longest: Myanmar
- 6th longest: Bhutan

- Country with which India shares the shortest land border: **Afghanistan (106 km)**

Seven Sister States & North-Eastern States

The **7** states known as the "Seven Sisters":

- Arunachal Pradesh
 - Nagaland
 - Manipur
 - Mizoram
 - Tripura
 - Assam
 - Meghalaya
-
- Sikkim + The Seven Sisters are collectively known as the North-Eastern States (**8 states**).
 - Largest North-Eastern state: **Arunachal Pradesh**
 - Smallest North-Eastern state: **Sikkim**



- Largest among the Seven Sisters: **Arunachal Pradesh**
- Smallest among the Seven Sisters: **Tripura**
- Most populous among the Seven Sisters / North-Eastern states: **Assam**
- Least populous among the North-Eastern states: **Sikkim**
- Least populous among the Seven Sisters: **Mizoram**
- All North-Eastern states share borders with other countries.
- State with the highest literacy rate among NE states: **Mizoram (91.33%)**

States and Union Territories Sharing International Borders:

- Indian states sharing borders with other countries - **16: (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal + North-Eastern states)**
- Note: Most Indian states share borders with other countries.
- Indian Union Territories sharing borders with other countries - **2: (Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh)**
- Jammu & Kashmir – **Pakistan**
- Ladakh – **China, Afghanistan & Pakistan**

Specific Borders with Neighbours:

States bordering **Pakistan**: Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat + Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir

- Indian state sharing the longest border with Pakistan: **Rajasthan**
- Indian state sharing the shortest border with Pakistan: **Punjab**
- Smallest Indian state bordering Pakistan: **Punjab**
- The total length of the border between India and Pakistan is **3,323 km.**
- Union Territory bordering Afghanistan: **Ladakh (Only one)**
- States bordering **China**: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh + Ladakh
- Indian state sharing the longest border with China: **Arunachal Pradesh**
- Indian state sharing the shortest border with China: **Himachal Pradesh**

- States bordering **Nepal**: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim
- Indian state sharing the longest border with Nepal: **Uttar Pradesh**
- Indian state sharing the shortest border with Nepal: **Sikkim**
- States bordering **Bhutan**: West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam
- Indian state sharing the longest border with Bhutan: Assam
- Indian state sharing the shortest border with Bhutan: Sikkim

- States bordering **Myanmar**: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram
- Indian state sharing the longest border with Myanmar: **Arunachal Pradesh**
- Indian state sharing the shortest border with Myanmar: **Nagaland**

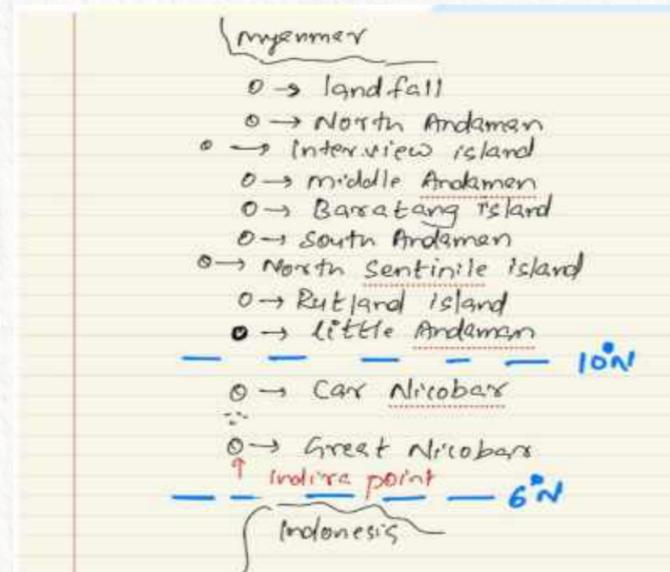
- States bordering Bangladesh: West Bengal, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Assam
- Indian state sharing the longest border with Bangladesh: **West Bengal**
- Indian state sharing the shortest border with Bangladesh: **Assam**

States Bordering Multiple Countries:

- Indian states bordering 3 countries - **3**:
 - **Sikkim**: China, Bhutan, Nepal
 - **West Bengal**: Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan
 - **Arunachal Pradesh**: China, Myanmar, Bhutan

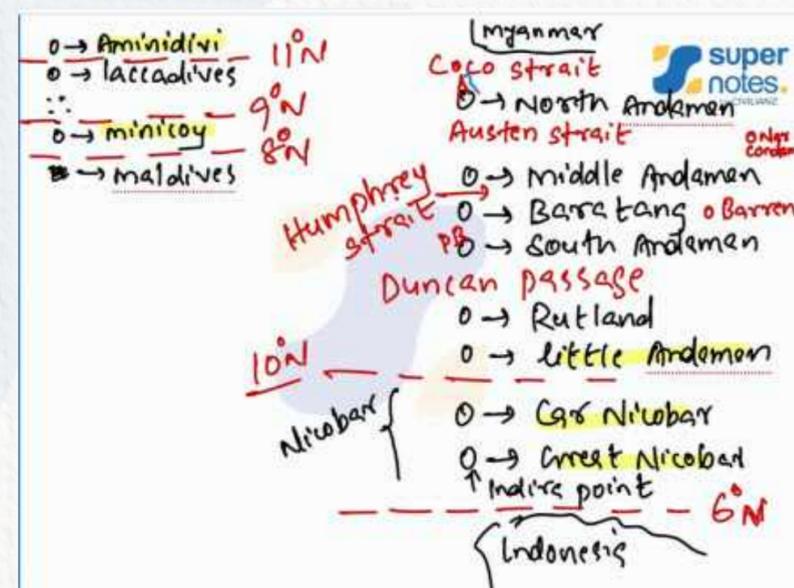
- Indian states bordering only one country - **10**: (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura)

- Indian states bordering only one other Indian state - **2**: (Sikkim, Meghalaya)
- Indian state bordering the most other Indian states: **Uttar Pradesh (8+1)** – (Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, +Delhi)
- **South Indian state** bordering the most other Indian states: **Karnataka (6)**
- **North East state** bordering the most other Indian states: **Assam (7)**



Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- Northernmost island in Andaman: **Landfall Island**
- Southernmost island in Andaman: **Little Andaman**
- Northernmost island in Nicobar: **Car Nicobar**
- Southernmost island in Nicobar: **Great Nicobar**
- **Indira Point** is located on Great Nicobar Island.



- Highest peak in Andaman and Nicobar: **Saddle Peak (North Andaman)**
- River originating from Saddle Peak: **Kalpong**
- Kalpong is the **largest river** in Andaman and Nicobar.
- Rivers flowing through Nicobar Islands: **Alexandria, Galathea**
- India's only active volcano: **Barren Island**
- India's dormant volcano: **Narcondam Island**
- Barren and Narcondam Islands are located in **Andaman**.
- **Port Blair** is located in South Andaman.
- **The Sentinelese tribe** is found on North Sentinel Island.
- **Jarawas** are an indigenous tribe of the Andaman Nicobar Islands.

Important Channels and Straits

- 6° Channel: Indira Point * Indonesia
- 8° Channel: Minicoy Island * Maldives
- 9° Channel: Lakshadweep * Minicoy Island
- 10° Channel: Andaman & Nicobar
- 11° Channel: Aminidivi & Laccadive Islands
- Coco Strait: North Andaman * Myanmar
- Austin Strait: North Andaman * Middle Andaman
- Humphrey Strait: Middle Andaman * Baratang / South Andaman
- Longest road bridge in Andaman Nicobar: Humphrey Bridge
- Duncan Passage: South Andaman * Rutland Island / Little Andaman

Boundary Lines & Corridors

- **Radcliffe Line:** Separates India from Pakistan, or India from Bangladesh.
- Chairman of the boundary demarcation committee: **Cyril Radcliffe** (He was a lawyer).
- The boundary commission had **5 members** (INC - 2, Muslim League - 2).
- Came into effect on **August 17, 1947**.
- **McMahon Line:** India * China (Henry McMahon) (1914)
- **Durand Line:** Pakistan * Afghanistan (Mortimer Durand) (1893)
- **Kali River and Mahabharat Mountain Range:** Separates India and Nepal.
- Kali River is a tributary of the **Ghaghara River**.
- The Kali River Water Treaty was signed between **India and Nepal** in **1996** (Prime Minister: P.V. Narasimha Rao).
- The Himachal mountain range is known as **Mahabharat** in Nepal.

Siliguri Corridor:

- Connects the Indian peninsula with the **North-Eastern states**.
- Located in **West Bengal**.
- Also known as the **Chicken's Neck Corridor**.
- Siliguri is located on the banks of the **Teesta River**.

- **Teen Bigha Corridor**: A piece of Indian land between **West Bengal and Bangladesh**, leased to Bangladesh in **September 2011**.
- **Matabhanga River, Ichamati River**: Separates **India and Bangladesh**.
- **Sankosh River**: Separates West Bengal and Assam.
- **Dampier-Hodges Line**: An imaginary line passing through the **northern and southern districts of West Bengal**. It is considered the northern boundary of the Indian Sunderbans.
- **2018 Land Border Agreement**: Between India and Myanmar.

Palk Strait:

- A strait separating **India and Sri Lanka**.
- Connects the **Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal**, or the **Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal**.
- Named after **Robert Palk**, who was the Governor of Madras.
- River falling into the Palk Strait: **Vaigai River**.

- **Gulf of Mannar / Adam's Bridge**: **India * Sri Lanka**
- River falling into the Gulf of Mannar: **Thamirabarani River**.
- **Tirunelveli** is located on the banks of the Thamirabarani River.
- **Sir Creek / 24th Parallel**: **India * Pakistan**
- **Wagah Border**: **Punjab * Pakistan**
- **Line of Control (LoC)**: **Ladakh * Pakistan Occupied Kashmir**
- **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**: **Ladakh * Chinese Occupied Kashmir / Aksai Chin Province**

Highest & Lowest Points in India:

- Highest peak in India: **Mount K2** (8611 m) (Located in POK)
- Highest peak completely within India: **Kanchenjunga** (Sikkim - 8586 m)
- Lowest land area in India: **Kuttanad** (-2.2m)

States and Union Territories - General Facts:

- Total states in India: **28**
- Largest state in India (by area): **Rajasthan**
- Smallest state in India (by area): **Goa**
- Most populous state: **Uttar Pradesh**
- Least populous state: **Sikkim**
- State with highest population density: **Bihar** (1106 / sq km, 2nd West Bengal, 3rd Kerala)
- State with lowest population density: **Arunachal Pradesh** (17 / sq km)
- State with highest population growth rate: **Meghalaya** (27.95 %)
- State with lowest population growth rate: **Nagaland** (-0.58%)
- State with highest Scheduled Caste (SC) population: **Uttar Pradesh**
- State with highest Scheduled Tribe (ST) population: **Madhya Pradesh**
- State with highest literacy rate: **Mizoram** (98.2%) (Note: Kerala is highest at 94.0%, Mizoram is usually 2nd or 3rd depending on the year; the provided 98.2% for Mizoram might be specific data point)
- State with lowest literacy rate: **Bihar** (61.8%)
- District with highest literacy rate: **Serchhip** (Mizoram)
- District with lowest literacy rate: **Alirajpur** (Madhya Pradesh)
- State with highest sex ratio: **Kerala** (1084/1000)
- State with lowest sex ratio: **Haryana** (879/1000)
- State with largest forest area: **Madhya Pradesh**
Second place: **Arunachal Pradesh**

- State with smallest forest area: **Haryana**
- State with largest forest area by percentage: **Mizoram (90.8%)**
- State with smallest forest area by percentage: **Haryana**
- Largest district in India: **Kutch** (Gujarat)
- Smallest district in India: **Mahe** (Puducherry)

Union Territories:

Total Union Territories: **8**

1. Ladakh
 2. Jammu & Kashmir
 3. Andaman & Nicobar Islands – Port Blair (Capital)
 4. Chandigarh – Chandigarh (Capital)
 5. Delhi – Delhi (Capital)
 6. Daman and Diu & Dadra and Nagar Haveli – Daman (Capital)
 7. Lakshadweep – Kavaratti (Capital)
 8. Puducherry – Puducherry (Capital)
- Largest Union Territory in India: **Ladakh**
 - Smallest Union Territory in India: **Lakshadweep**
 - Most populous Union Territory: **Delhi**

IMPORTANT SOURCES USED

- Class IX — Contemporary India – I
- Class XI — Practical Work in Geography
- Class XI — India: Physical Environment
- Class XII — India: People and Economy

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS FROM THIS TOPIC

1. The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through which of the following Indian states? [Kerala PSC LDC 2017]

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Tripura
- (d) Manipur

Answer: (d) Manipur

2. The Tropic of Cancer passes through how many states of India? [Kerala PSC KAS Prelims 2019]

- (a) 6
- (b) 8
- (c) 10
- (d) 12

Answer: (b) 8

3. In which among the following states does Tropic of Cancer and Equator both pass through? [Kerala PSC LDC 2021]

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Chhattisgarh (d) None

Answer: (d) None

4. With reference to the geographic location of India, consider the following statements:

1. India lies in the Northern Hemisphere.

2. The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'N$) divides the country into almost two equal parts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? [Kerala PSC KAS 2020]

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Select the correct statements regarding India's geographical location:

1. India is located in the northeastern part of the Northern Hemisphere.

2. India's latitudinal extent is from $8^{\circ}4'$ North to $37^{\circ}6'$ North.

3. India's climate is tropical monsoon.

Options:

A) 1, 2, 3 Correct

B) 1, 2 only Correct

C) 2, 3 only Correct

D) 1, 3 only Correct

Correct Answer: A) 1, 2, 3 Correct

2. Match the extremity listed in Column A with its corresponding location/detail in Column B.

Column A (Extremity)	Column B (Location/Detail)
1. Easternmost Point	A. Indira Col
2. Westernmost Point	B. Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin)
3. Northernmost Point	C. Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh
4. Southernmost Point (Mainland)	D. Ghuar Mota

Choose the correct matching option:

- A) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D
- B) 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B
- C) 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A
- D) 1-A, 2-C, 3-D, 4-B

Correct answer : B) 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B

Easternmost	Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh.
Westernmost	Ghuar Mota in the Kutch region of Gujarat.
Northernmost	Indira Col
Southernmost (Mainland)	Kanyakumari is also known as Cape Comorin.

3. Select the correct statements about India's borders:

- 1. The total length of India's land border is 15200 kilometers.
- 2. India shares its longest land border with Bangladesh.
- 3. The border with Pakistan is known as the Radcliffe Line.

Options:

- A) 1, 3 only Correct
- B) 1, 2, 3 Correct
- C) 2, 3 only Correct
- D) 1, 2 only Correct

Correct Answer: B) 1, 2, 3 Correct

4. Correct statements regarding the Indian Standard Meridian (ISM):

1. India's Standard Meridian is at 82.5° East.
2. It passes through 5 states.
3. India's local time is equal to Sri Lanka's time.

Options:

- A) 1, 2 only Correct
- B) 2, 3 only Correct
- C) 1, 2, 3 Correct
- D) 1, 3 only Correct

Correct Answer: C) 1, 2, 3 Correct

5. Choose the Correct statements regarding India's neighboring countries:

1. The number of countries sharing a land border with India is 7.
2. West Bengal shares the longest border with Bangladesh.
3. Himachal Pradesh shares the shortest border with China.

Options:

- A) 1, 2, 3 Correct
- B) 1, 2 only Correct
- C) 2, 3 only Correct
- D) 1, 3 only Correct

Correct Answer: A) 1, 2, 3 Correct

6. Choose the Correct statements about the Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

1. Barren Island is the only active volcano in India.
2. Saddle Peak is the highest peak in Andaman and Nicobar.
3. Indira Point is located on Great Nicobar Island.

Options:

- A) 1, 2 only Correct
- B) 2, 3 only Correct
- C) 1, 2, 3 Correct
- D) 1, 3 only Correct

Correct Answer: C) 1, 2, 3 Correct

7. Choose the Correct statements about India's Northeastern states:

- 1.The number of Northeastern states is 8.**
- 2.Arunachal Pradesh is the largest Northeastern state by area.**
- 3.Assam is the most populous Northeastern state.**

Options:

- A) 1, 2, 3 Correct**
- B) 1, 2 only Correct**
- C) 2, 3 only Correct**
- D) 1, 3 only Correct**

Correct Answer: A) 1, 2, 3 Correct

8. Choose the Correct statements about India's geographical area:

- 1.India's area is 3,287,263 square kilometers.**
- 2.India accounts for 2.42% of the world's area.**
- 3.India ranks 7th among the countries of the world by area.**

Options:

- A) 1, 2 only Correct**
- B) 2, 3 only Correct**
- C) 1, 2, 3 Correct**
- D) 1, 3 only Correct**

Correct Answer: C) 1, 2, 3 Correct

9. Choose the Correct statements about India's population:

- 1.According to the 2011 census, India's population is 121 crore (1.21 billion).**
- 2.India accounts for 17.5% of the world's population.**
- 3.Bihar is the state with the highest population density.**

Options:

- A) 1, 2, 3 Correct**
- B) 1, 2 only Correct**
- C) 2, 3 only Correct**
- D) 1, 3 only Correct**

Correct Answer: A) 1, 2, 3 Correct

10. Statements about India's neighbours and the characteristics of their shared borders

1. India shares the shortest land border with Afghanistan (about 106 km).
2. India shares the longest land border with Pakistan.

Which of these statements are correct?

Options:

- A) Only 1 and 2 are correct
- B) Only 2 correct
- C) Only 1 is correct
- D) Only 2 is correct

Correct Answer: C) Only 1 is correct