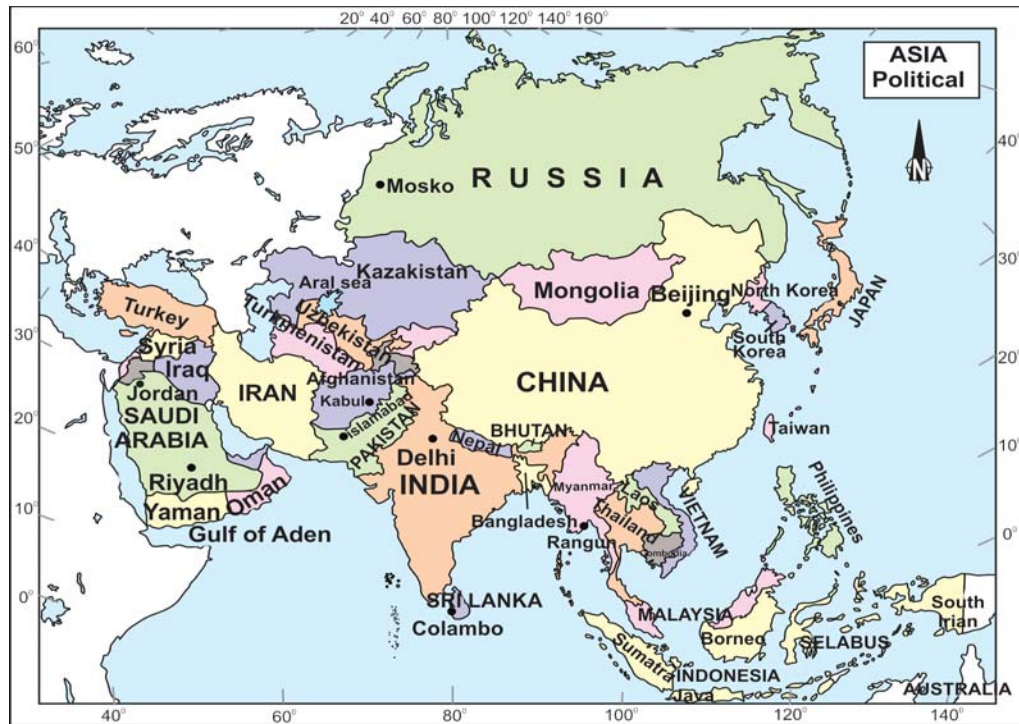


7

INDIA: LOCATION, BORDER, AREA AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

You have learnt about the location, borders, area and physiography of Gujarat in class VI. Now, we will learn about India.



7.1 Political Map of Asia

Fill in the information in the blanks given below about India

India lies between $8^{\circ}4' N$ latitudes to $37^{\circ}6' N$ latitudes and $68^{\circ}7' E$ to $97^{\circ}25' N$ longitudes.

● India is in the of Asia.

● Border

- is in the East.
- is in the West.
- is in the North.
- is in the South.
- country is in the north-west.



7.2 Political Map of India

Area

India extends from Kashmir in the north to Kanyakumari in the south and covers a distance of 3214 km. from north to south. It extends from Arunachal Pradesh in the east to Dwarka in the west and covers 2933 km. from east to west. The land area of India is approximately 32,87,263 square km. Hence India is considered as the seventh largest country in the world in terms of land area.

India tapers towards the north and the south and is relatively broader in the center. There are 28 states, 7 Union territories and 1 Capital state of India New Delhi.

Activity

- *Make a list of the states and their capitals and Union Territories of India.*
- *Mention the names of the states through which the Tropic of Cancer passes.*

Physiography

The landform of India is not uniform everywhere. On the basis of variations in the landforms, India can be divided into following five physiographic divisions:

- (1) Northern mountain Range
- (2) Plains of North India
- (3) Central and Deccan Plateaus of India
- (4) Coastal plains
- (5) Islands/Archipelagos
- (6) Indian Deserts

(1) Northern Mountain Range

The Himalayas is a chain of three mountains and is called the Himalayan mountain range. It is the highest mountain range in the world. There are three divisions of the northern mountain range:

- (1) Himalayan mountain range
- (2) Himalayas
- (3) Eastern Himalayas or Purvachal range

There are three distinct and parallel ranges. The northern most range towards China is known as the Greater Himalayas; the Central Himalayas lie in the centre and the range towards India is called Shivalik Range.



7.3 Physiography of India



7.4 India: Mountainous Region

1.1 Mountain Ranges of Himalaya

Mt Godwin Austin peak of India is 8611 meters high. It lies in the Karakoram range. Mt Everest (8848 meters) is the highest peak in the world which is located in the Himalayan range in Nepal. Kanchanjungha (8518 meters), Nandadevi (7817 meters) and Badrinath (7138 meters) are high peaks located in the mountainous region of the Himalayas in India.

1.2 Mountainous regions of Eastern Himalayas

The eastern part of the Himalayas is mountainous. Patkoi and Lushai (very high) hills form parts of the eastern Himalayas, whereas Garo, Khasi, Jaintia and Naga (the not so high) hills form parts of the southern Himalayas from the east-west direction.

(2) Plains of North India

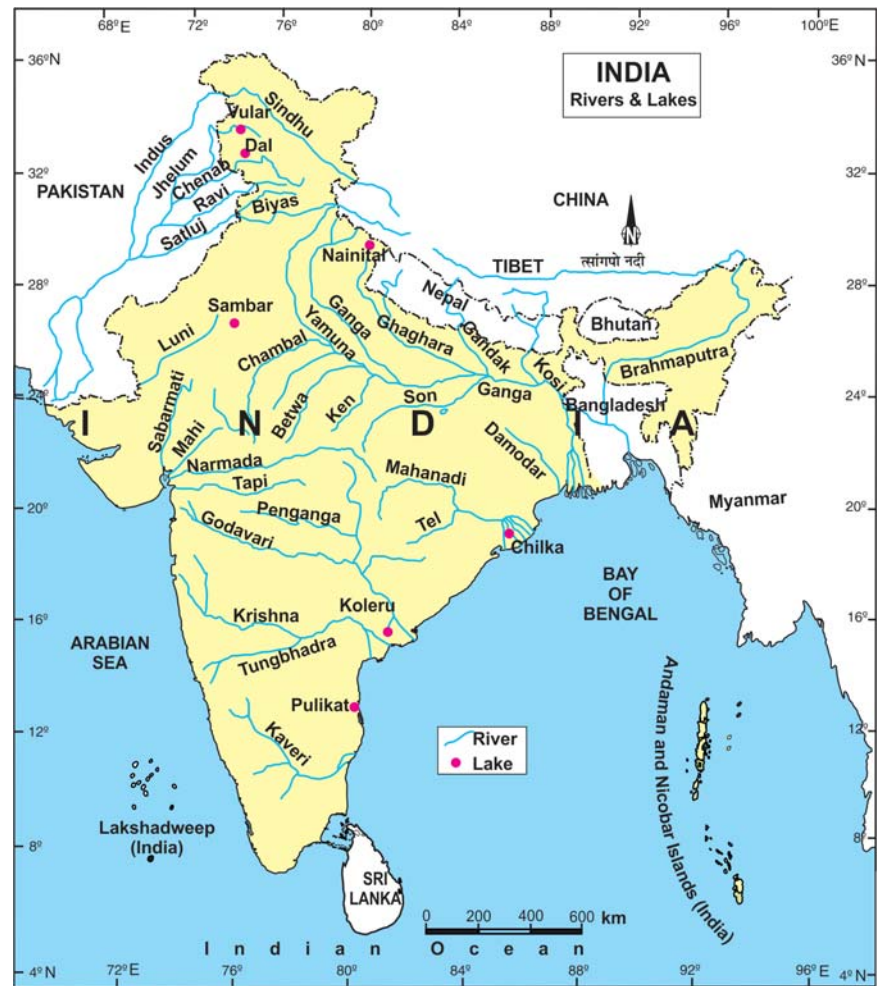
The plains to the South of the Northern Mountain Range are formed by the alluvium brought by the Himalayan and peninsular rivers. They cover the vast area of northern India. That is why they are known as the plains of North India. The plains made by the rivers are so vast that it is one of the largest plains in the world formed by the rivers. Due to the vastness of these plains, it is one of the most prosperous and populated areas of India.



7.5 India: Plains of India

Rivers flowing from
Himalayas

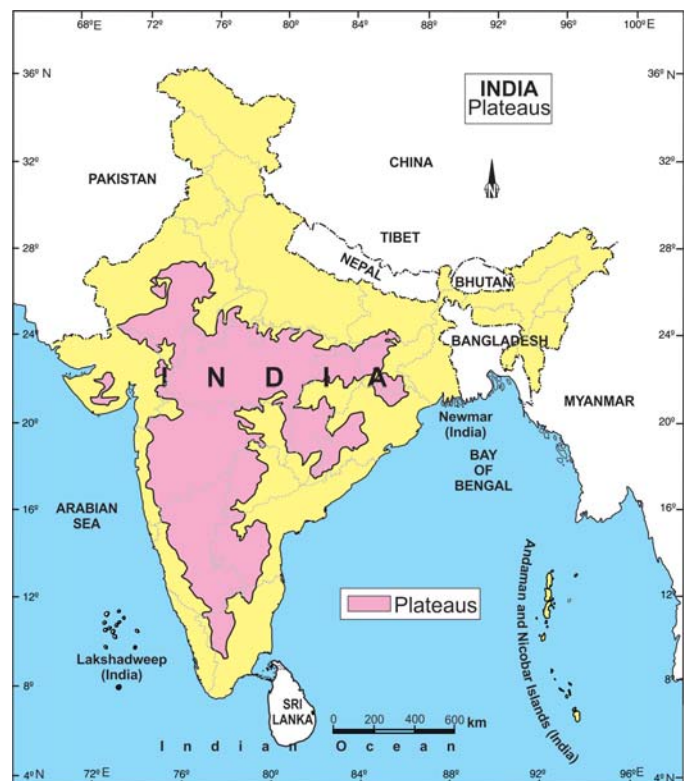
Major Lakes of India



7.6 India: Rivers and Lakes

(3) Central and Deccan Plateaus of India

The Central and Deccan plateaus lie to the south of the plains of north India. They are spread like a triangle surrounded by water bodies on three sides. So, it is called a Peninsula. It is the oldest landmass made up of rocks. The rift valleys of the Narmada and the Shon rivers are located in this plateau. This plateau is further divided into two parts: Malwa plateau to the north and Deccan plateau to the south. The soil in this plateau is not very fertile. But, because it is black, this area yields a variety of crops and is also a treasure house of many minerals.



7.7 India: Plateaus

(4) Coastal Plains

India is surrounded by seas on all three sides. The coastline is approximately 7517 km. long. The coastal region is made up of narrow plains. The ocean lies on one side of the coastal plain while the peninsular plateau lies on the other. The region lying to the east of the Eastern Ghats is known as the Eastern Coastal Plain. It is well-known for its fishing industry. Chennai, Puducherry, Machhalipattanam and Vishakhapatnam(Vizag) are the well-known ports located on the eastern coastal plain.

The region lying to the west of the Western Ghats is known as the Western Coastal Plain. It is narrower than the Eastern Coastal Plain. This area has black, fertile soil with alluvium deposits which is conducive to the growth of crops. The Western Coastal Plain is renowned for its transportation services and fishing industry. The major ports and cities like Mumbai, Kandla, Mangaluru, Calicut and Thiruvananthapuram are located in this region.

(5) Archipelagos / Islands

A piece of land, smaller than a continent, that is surrounded by water is an Island. A group of many such islands form an archipelago. The Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands are situated in the Arabian Sea towards the west of India, whereas the Andaman and Nicobar islands are situated in the Bay of Bengal towards the east of India

(6) Desert

The desert of Rajasthan lies to the west of the Aravalli mountain range. The soil here is sandy and the climate is dry and unbearable. Most of the time this region receives less than 20 cm of annual rainfall. Hence it faces water shortage and remains dry, barren and uninhabited. Due to the scarcity of water and unavailability of basic necessities, the population of this region is very less.

Date palms and caravans pulled by camels are seen in this region. North Rajasthan is being irrigated through the river Satluj via the Indira Canal . The Canal has succeeded in turning the area fertile and favorable for agricultural growth. The kind of desert in the Rann of Kutch differs from the desert of Rajasthan desert. The Kutch desert is divided into two parts: Big Rann and Small Rann. The soil of the Rann of Kutch is highly saline. It appears as if the desert soil is covered with a white sheet. This is the only desert of its kind in the world.

EXERCISE

Q.1. Answer the following questions

1. How did the islands come into existence?
2. Why are deserts thinly populated?
3. 'The plains of the North are densely populated.' Yes or No? Why?
4. Why have big cities developed near sea coasts?
5. What if there was no variation in the physiography of India?

Q.2. State whether the following sentences are true or false

1. India is the seventh largest country in the world in terms of area.
2. Mount Everest is the highest peak of India.
3. The plateau regions of Central and South India are known as the treasure house of minerals.
4. The Tropic of Capricorn passes through India.
5. Rann of Kutch is very sandy.

Project

- *Collect information, along with pictures, from the library or Internet about any one state of India.*

Things to know

- *Equator is approximately 800 km from Kanyakumari.*
- *The coastal region of India is divided into two parts.*
 - (1) Eastern Coastal Plains and Western Coastal Plains.
- *The Himalayas are divided into three parts.*
 - (1) Greater Himalayas
 - (2) Central Himalayas
 - (3) Shivalik Range