

# India: Size and Location

- India is the 7th largest country with 2.42% area of world and also the second most populous country with 17.4% of world population.
- India is located in North-Eastern Hemisphere, the main land extending between latitudes 8°4'N and 37°6'N and longitudes 68°7'E and 97°25'E.
- Tropic of Cancer (23.5°N) divides the country into almost two equal parts and passes through 8 states namely: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands lie in South-East and South-West of mainland in Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea, respectively.
- Southernmost point of India is Indira Point or Pygmalion point and **Southernmost point of mainland** is Kanyakumari, **Northernmost point** is Indira col, **Easternmost** is Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh and **Westernmost point** is West of Ghaur Mota in Gujarat.
- India's land boundary is about 15,200 km and total coastline including islands is 7516.6km North-South and East-West extent of India is 3214 km and 2933 km, respectively.
- 82.5°E is considered as Indian Standard Meridian for IST which is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT and passes through 5 Indian states: U.P, M.P, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- India shares its borders with 7 countries sharing longest boundary with Bangladesh (4096.7km) followed by China (3488 km), Pakistan (33 km), Nepal (1751 km), Myanmar (1643 km), Bhutan (699 km) and Afghanistan (106 km.)
- Southern neighbours of India across sea are Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- India's Political division has 28 States and 9 Union Territories.

## Physical Features of India

The land of India is characterised by great diversity in its physical features. Physiography is a description of the features and phenomena of nature. Based on micro variations, India can be divided into six physiographic divisions: -

- (i) The Northern and North-East Mountains (Himalayas)
- (ii) Northern Plains
- (iii) Peninsular Plateau
- (iv) Indian Desert
- (v) Coastal Plains
- (vi) The Islands

### Highest Peaks of India

	Highest Peak	Height (m)	State
1.	K2 (Godwin Austin)	8611	Pok(India)
2.	Kanchenjunga	8598	Sikkim
3.	Nanda Devi	7817	Uttarakhand
4.	Saltoro Kangri	7742	Jammu and Kashmir
5.	Kangto	7090	Arunachal Pradesh

## Drainage System of India

The flow of water through well-defined channels is known as 'drainage' and network of such channels is called a 'drainage system'. On the basis of mode of origin, nature and characteristics, Indian rivers are divided into two drainages :

(1) Himalayan Drainage, (2) Peninsular Drainage.

### 1. Himalayan Drainage

The Himalayan drainage system mainly comprises the basin areas of the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. Here most of the rivers are perennial in nature and are fed by rains during monsoon season as well as by the melting of the snow during summer season.

River	Length (km)	Source	Mouth
Indus	2880 (1114 km in India)	Glacier near Mansarovar lake	Arabian Sea
Ganga	2525	Gangotri Glacier	Bay of Bengal
Brahm aputra	2900	Chemayungdung glacier of Kailash range near Mansarovar lake	Bay of Bengal

### 2. Peninsular Drainage

Peninsular rivers are much older than the Himalayan rivers. They are non-perennial rivers with a maximum discharge in the rainy season. The rivers are characterised by broad and shallow valleys.

River	Length (km)	Source	Mouth
Mahanadi	858	Highlands of Chhattisgarh	Bay of Bengal
Godavari	1465	Nasik	Bay of Bengal
Krishna	1400	Mahabaleshwar	Bay of Bengal
Cauvery	765	Brahmagir range of Western Ghats	Bay of Bengal
Narmada	1312 km	Amartkentak Plateau	Arabian Sea
Tapi	724	Betul (M.P)	Arabian Sea
Sabarmati	416	Aravalis	Arabian Sea
Mahi	560	Vindhya	Arabian Sea
Luni	450	Aravalis	Arabian Sea

# Practice Exercise

1. What percentage of the world's land area is occupied by India?  
(a) 2.4 (b) 3.4 (c) 1.5 (d) 4.0
2. India lies in which hemisphere of Earth?  
(a) Northern-Eastern (b) Northern-Western  
(c) Northern (d) Southern
3. Tropic of Cancer passes through how many states of India?  
(a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 9 (d) 10
4. 82.5°E is considered as Indian Standard Meridian for IST passes through how many Indian states?  
(a) Five (b) Six (c) Four (d) Seven
5. What is length of total land boundary of India in kilometre?  
(a) 15,200 km (b) 17,000 km  
(c) 16000 km (d) 12500 km
6. What is the rank of India in terms of population in the world?  
(a) 1 (b) 4 (c) 2 (d) 3
7. How many countries share its land borders with India?  
(a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 9 (d) 10
8. Southernmost point of India is known as  
(a) Indira Point (b) Gandhi Point  
(c) Kanyakumari (d) None of these
9. India shares its longest land border with which of the following country?  
(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan  
(c) China (d) Burma
10. Which is the highest mountain peak of India?  
(a) K2 (b) Kanchenjunga  
(c) Nanda Devi (d) None of these
11. On the basis of mode of origin, nature and characteristics Indian rivers are divided into how many drainages?  
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five
12. Which of the following river drain into Arabian Sea?  
(a) Godavari (b) Krishna  
(c) Cauvery (d) Narmada
13. What is the length of river Brahmaputra?  
(a) 2900 (b) 3000 (c) 3500 (d) 4000
14. What is the Source of Ganga river?  
(a) Gangotri Glacier (b) Mansarovar Lake  
(c) Yamunotri (d) None of these
15. What is the source of Krishna river in India?  
(a) Nasik (b) Amarkantak  
(c) Brahmagiri (d) Mahabaleshwar
16. What is the origin point of the cauvery river?  
(a) Brahmagiri range (b) Satpura range  
(c) Amarkantak range (d) Nasik range
17. What is the length of the Mahi River in India?  
(a) 560 (b) 630 (c) 700 (d) 800
18. Which of the following river has its origin in the Betul district of M.P?  
(a) Tapi (b) Luni  
(c) Sabarmati (d) Mahi
19. Which is the second highest peak of India after K2 ?  
(a) Kangto (b) Kanchenjunga  
(c) Nanda Devi (d) Salto Kangri

## Answers

1.	(a)	2.	(a)	3.	(b)	4.	(a)	5.	(a)	6.	(c)	7.	(a)	8.	(a)	9.	(a)	10.	(a)
11.	(a)	12.	(d)	13.	(a)	14.	(a)	15.	(a)	16.	(a)	17.	(a)	18.	(a)	19.	(b)		