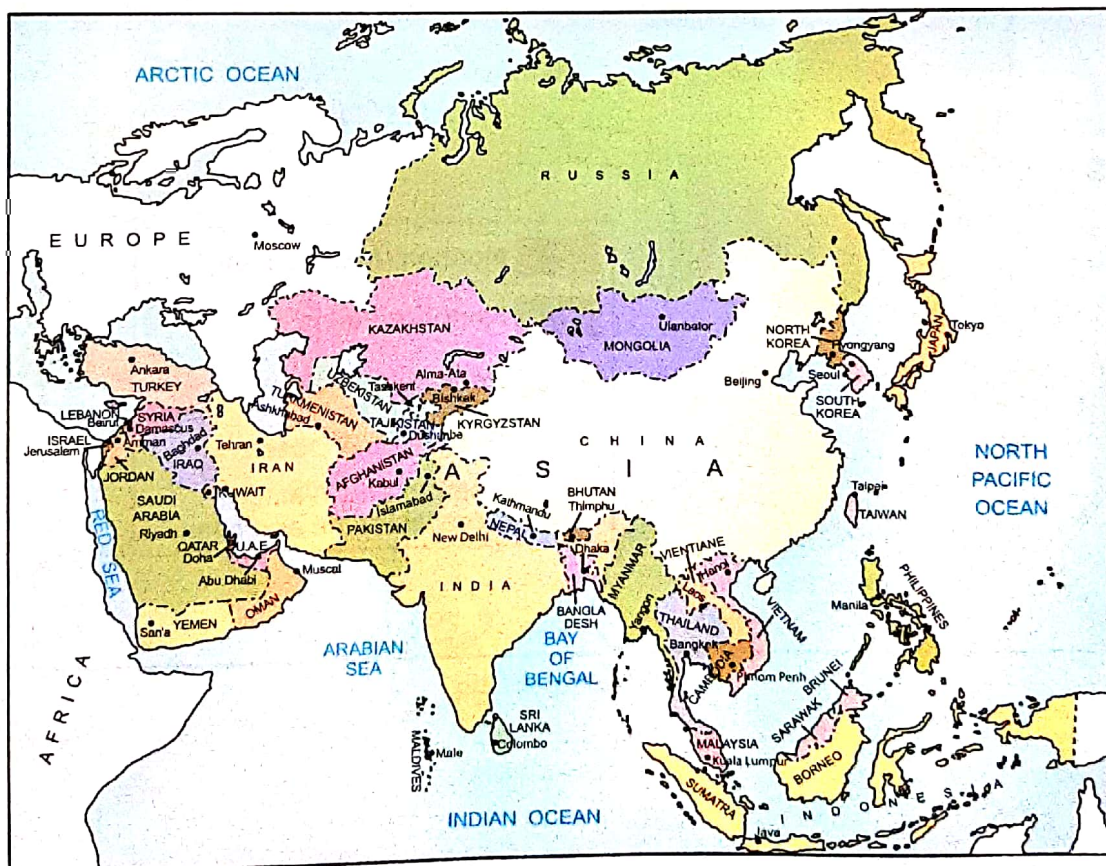


### Key Concepts

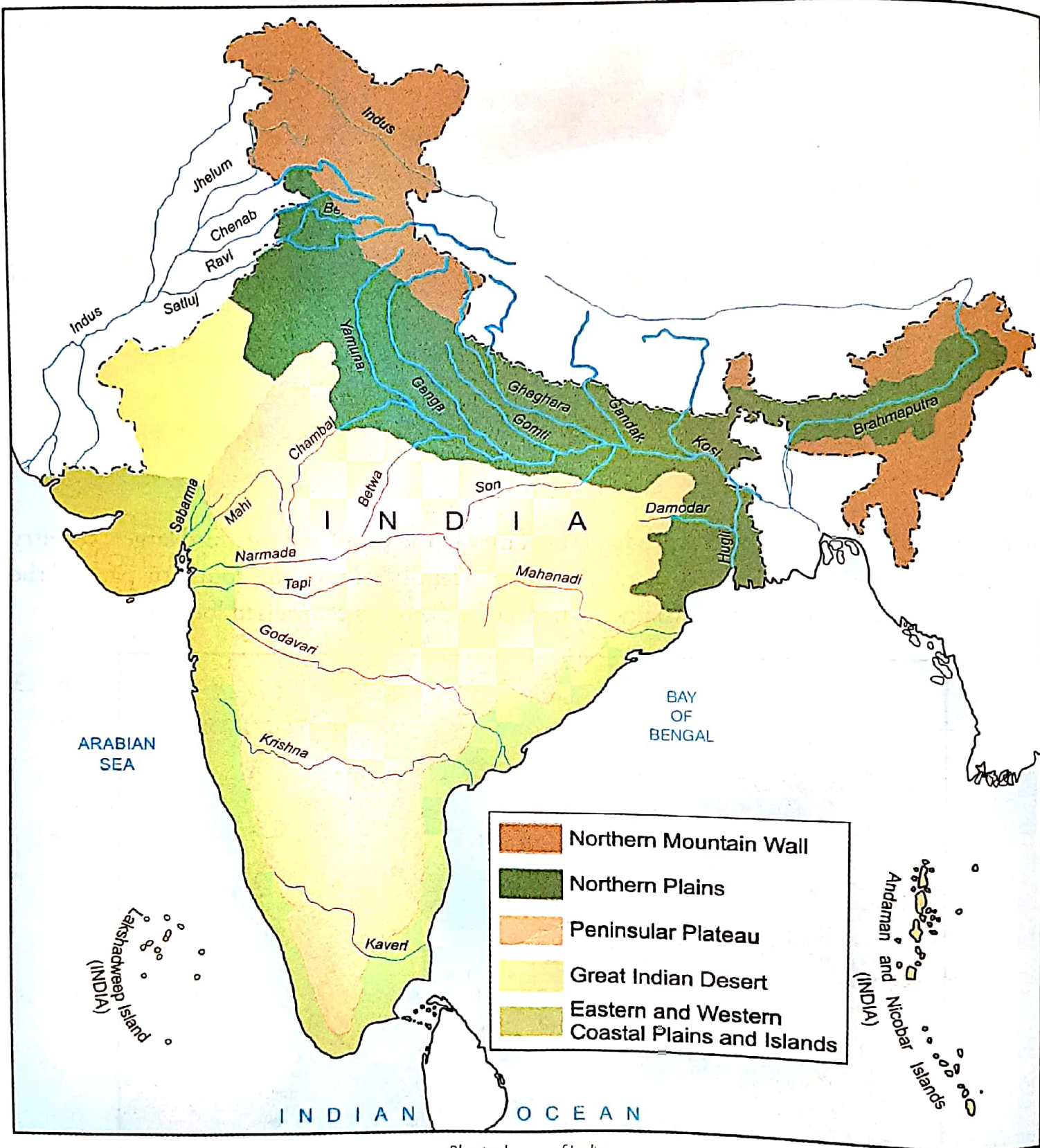
- Location of states on the map of India
- States and their capitals
- Neighbouring states/water bodies

## LOCATION OF INDIA

India, our motherland, is the seventh largest country in the world and the third largest country in Asia (area-wise). It is located in the Northern Hemisphere, in the southern part of the continent of Asia. On a map of Asia, we can locate India by its centralised location.



Asia—Political divisions



Physical map of India

## FEATURES OF INDIA

- Looking at the map of India can help us to understand its shape, size, borders and boundaries at a glance. It is wide in the middle and narrow in the North and South. It measures 3214 km from North to South and 2933 km from East to West.
- The northern part of the country is bound by the Great Himalayas and the southern part forms a peninsula, that is, it is surrounded by water on three sides. The Arabian Sea is in the West, the Bay of Bengal in the East and the Indian Ocean to the south of our country. The southern tip of mainland India is Kanyakumari, but the southernmost point of India is Indira Point in the Great Nicobar Island, located to the south-east of the Indian peninsula.
- India shares its north-western boundary with Pakistan and Afghanistan, northern with Nepal, Bhutan and China; and the eastern boundary with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Thus, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Bangladesh and Myanmar, along with the island countries of Sri Lanka and Maldives, are India's neighbouring countries. India and her neighbouring countries formed the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on 8th December, 1985, to work on programmes based on mutual cooperation which would contribute towards the development of these countries.
- Now take a political map of India given on page 77. It shows that this big country is composed of 29 states and 7 union territories, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Area-wise, Rajasthan is the largest state and Goa is the smallest state of India.
- We, the citizens of India, are proud to be Indians because despite our diversity in language, religion, culture, etc., we are united as one nation. This uniting force is well represented by our national anthem '*Jana Gana Mana*' written by Rabindranath Tagore. Our national flag, called *tiranga*, meaning tricolour has three colours—saffron (stands for bravery and sacrifice) at the top, white (stands for truth and purity) in the middle and dark green (stands for faith and fertility) at the bottom. At the centre of the flag, there is a navy blue wheel which represents the Wheel of Law.
- Each state has its own cultural identity that represents its uniqueness. People in different states speak different languages, wear different types of clothes and have different cultures and customs.



Great Himalayas

## States, Capitals and Languages

State	Capital	Languages Spoken
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad (Amaravati is a proposed capital)	Telugu and Urdu
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Mishri, Adi Gallong, Monpa, Aka, Nocte, Khamti, Nishi, Wancho and Tagin
Assam	Dispur	Axomiya
Bihar	Patna	Hindi
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Hindi
Goa	Panaji	Marathi and Konkani
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Gujarati
Haryana	Chandigarh	Hindi
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Hindi and Pahari
Mizoram	Aizawl	Mizo and English
Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)	Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Ladakhi, Pahari, Punjabi and Dadri
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hindi
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Kannada
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Malayalam
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Hindi
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Marathi
Manipur	Imphal	Manipuri
Meghalaya	Shillong	Khasi, Jaintia and Garo
Nagaland	Kohima	Naga Pidgin (Nagamese Creole)
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Oriya

Punjab	Chandigarh	Punjabi
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Rajasthani and Hindi
Sikkim	Gangtok	Hindi, Nepali
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Tamil
Telangana	Hyderabad	Telugu, Urdu
Tripura	Agartala	Bengali, Tripuri
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Hindi, Urdu
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Hindi
West Bengal	Kolkata	Bengali

## Union Territories of India

There are seven Union Territories in India. They are:

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Capital—Port Blair)
- Delhi (Capital—New Delhi)
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Capital—Silvassa)
- Puducherry (Capital—Puducherry)
- Chandigarh (Capital—Chandigarh)
- Daman and Diu (Capital—Daman)
- Lakshadweep (Capital—Kavaratti)

### Good to know!

Nagamese Creole originated from the interaction of the people of several tribes tribesmen of Nagaland. It was developed primarily as a market language to communicate for trade.

### Stop to Answer

- If there are so many different languages, how do you think people from different states communicate with each other?

## Interesting facts about States of India

- Largest state in terms of area: Rajasthan
- Smallest state in terms of area: Goa
- Largest state in terms of population: Uttar Pradesh
- Smallest state in terms of population: Sikkim
- State with highest literacy: Kerala
- State with lowest literacy: Bihar



## ZONES

The states are located in different directions. India can be divided into six regions or zones—North Zone, South Zone, East Zone, West Zone, Central Zone and North-East Zone. Each zone is named after a direction and includes the states lying in that direction.

### North Zone

The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are included in this zone. This zone is also home to the highest mountain range in the world—the Himalayas.

### East Zone

The East Zone includes the states of Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. This region is known for its rich mineral deposits and dense forests.

### West Zone

Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra lie in this zone. Goa and Maharashtra are located on the western coast of India. The Western Ghats in this region have been declared as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Many parts of Rajasthan are covered with desert.

### Central Zone

This zone comprises Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. It is a plateau region and is rich in minerals and possesses natural beauty. For example, Bheda Ghat in Jabalpur has marble mountains. This zone also has many famous wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

### South Zone

The South Zone comprises the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. This region is surrounded by seas on three sides. This zone is famous for silk, spices, hill stations, cardamom hills and gold mines.

### North-East Zone

Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh are located in this region. Together, these states are called the 'seven sisters'. Sikkim is also included in this zone. Assam is known for tea gardens and oil fields.





## New Words

- Diversity** : of different varieties  
**Peninsula** : landmass surrounded by water on three sides

## Recap

- India has 29 states, 7 union territories including the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- Rajasthan is the largest state of India in terms of area.
- Goa is the smallest state of India.
- India and her neighbours have formed the SAARC to work together for the development of nations.
- India is divided into six zones according to location.

## EXERCISE

### A. Choose the correct answer.

1. India is the fifth/seventh largest country of the world.
2. Delhi/Kolkata is the National Capital Territory of India.
3. The southern half of India forms a peninsula/island.
4. Saffron/Green colour in our flag stands for faith and fertility.
5. Karnataka falls in the Central Zone/South Zone.

### B. Fill in the blanks.

1. The largest state in terms of area is .....
2. Panaji is the capital of .....
3. There are ..... union territories in India.
4. The South Zone comprises the states of ....., Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
5. The state of Jammu and Kashmir is in the ..... Zone.

### C. Write true or false.

1. India is located in the Southern Hemisphere.
2. India is the third largest country in Asia.

3. Indira Point is the southernmost point of India.
4. White colour of India's flag stands for faith and fertility.
5. Rabindranath Tagore wrote the National Anthem of India.

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**D. Answer the following questions.**

1. Name the water bodies that surround peninsular India.
2. What is the North-South and East-West measure of India?
3. What bounds the northern part of India?
4. Name the southernmost tip of the mainland Indian Peninsula.
5. Name the neighbouring countries of India.
6. When was SAARC formed? What does it stand for?
7. Name the neighbouring island countries of India.
8. How many states and union territories are there in India?
9. Name the states in the East Zone. What is this zone famous for?