**Notes**

India is a large country and one of the modern civilisations in the world. India has achieved remarkable growth in the last five decades. Indian Economy is mainly dependent on agriculture. However, the Indian economy has been growing not only in the agriculture sector but also in the industrial and technology sector.

**Location**

* India is lying entirely in the Northern hemisphere
* The land extends between latitudes 8°4’N and 37°6’N and longitudes 68°7’E and 97°25’E.
* The Tropic of Cancer (23° 30’N) divides India into almost two equal parts.
* The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in the Bay of Bengal to the south-east of the mainland, and the Lakshadweep Islands are in the Arabian Sea to the southwest.

**Size**

* India's landmass covers 3.28 million sq. km, accounting for approximately 2.4% of the world's total geographical area.
* In terms of landmass, India is regarded as the world's seventh largest country.
* India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km.
* The total length of the coastline of the mainland is 7,516.6 km including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep.
* India is bounded by the young fold mountains in the northwest, north and northeast. South of about 22° north latitude, it begins to taper and extends towards the Indian Ocean, dividing it into two seas, the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on its east.
* Time along the Standard Meridian of India (82°30’E) passing through Mirzapur (in Uttar Pradesh) is taken as the standard time for India. As one proceeds from south to north, the length of the day and night is influenced by the latitudinal extent.
* India’s East-West extent appears to be smaller than the north-south extent
* The time gap between Arunachal Pradesh present in the east and Gujarat present in the west is about 2 hours. The latitudinal extent influences the duration of day and night, as one move from south to north.

**India and the World**

The Indian landmass has a central location between the East and West Asia. India is a southward extension of the Asian continent. The trans-Indian Ocean routes connect the countries of Europe in the West and the countries of East Asia. No other country has as long a coastline on the Indian Ocean as India has. India’s contacts with the World have continued through the ages. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries. On the other hand, the influence of Greek sculpture, and the architectural styles of domes and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of India.

* India is situated in the center of the Asian continent, between west and east. It is a southerly extension of the Asian continent. It is distinct from the rest of Asia and is referred to as a subcontinent.
* The Deccan Peninsula helps India to establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast and with Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast.
* The trans-Indian Ocean routes link Western European countries with East Asian countries. No other country in the Indian Ocean has a coastline as long as India's.
* India is the only country to have an ocean after its name.
* India's land routes predate sea routes for a long time. The various routes that cut through the northern mountains provided transportation for ancient travelers because the sea had previously limited such communication.
* These routes brought the Ramayana and Mahabharata Indian epics, Panchatantra stories, Upanishads, Indian numerals, and the decimal system to the world. Besides, goods such as muslin and spices were exported from the country to other parts of the world.
* The influence of Greek sculpture and architecture can be widely seen in the country.

**India’s Neighbours**

* The country holds a strategic position in South Asia with 28 states and 8 union territories.
* India shares its borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, in the north with Nepal, Bhutan, and China (Tibet), and in the east with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Two neighbouring island countries are located to the south, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
* The country is geographically and historically connected to its neighbours

**Some Interesting Facts about India**

* Prior to1947, India had two types of states: provinces and princely states. The provinces were ruled by British officials appointed as viceroys by the British Council. In exchange for loyalty against the British government, the princely states were ruled by local hereditary rulers.
* Indira Point, the Indian Union's southernmost point, was submerged by waters during the 2004 Tsunami.
* India’s distance from Europe has decreased by 7000 km since the opening of the Suez Canal in 1896.
* India has the world's second highest population density.
* Kanchenjunga, India's highest mountain peak, is the world's third highest mountain peak.

**MCQs Questions**

**Question 1** The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through

(a) Rajasthan

(b) Orissa (Now Odisha)

(c) Chhattisgarh

(d) Tripura

Answer: (b) Orissa (Now Odisha)

**Question 2** The eastern most longitude of India is

(a) 97°25’E

(b) 68°7′ E

(c) 77°6’E

(d) 82°32’E

Answer: (a) 97°25’E

**Question 3** Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim have common frontiers with

(a) China

(b) Bhutan

(c) Nepal

(d) Myanmar

Answer: (c) Nepal

**Question 4** If you intend to visit Kavarati during your summer vacations, which one of the following Union Territories of India you will be going to?

(a) Puducherry

(b) Lakshadweep

(c) Andaman & Nicobar

(d) Diu and Daman

Answer: (b) Lakshadweep

**Question 5** My friend hails from a country which does not share land boundary with India. Identify the country (a) Bhutan

(b) Tajikistan

(c) Bangladesh

(d) Nepal

Answer: (b) Tajikistan

**Question 6** How many states and Union Territories does India have?

(a) India has 26 States and 7 Union Territories

(b) India has 25 States and 7 Union Territories

(c) India has 28 States and 7 Union Territories

(d) India has 28 States and 6 Union Territories

Answer: (c) India has 28 States and 7 Union Territories

**Question 7** Which line divides India into approximately two equal parts?

(a) Equator

(b) Tropic of Cancer

(c) Tropic of Capricorn

(d) None of these

Answer: (b) Tropic of Cancer

**Question 8** What is the position of India in the world in respect of area?

(a) 8th position

(b) 7th position

(c) 6th position

(d) 2nd position

Answer: (b) 7th position

**Question 9** Which meridian is fixed as a Standard Meridian of India?

(a) 82½° E

(b) 84½° E

(c) 86° E

(d) 81° E

Answer: (a) 82½° E

**Question 10** The latitudinal extent of India lies between

(a) 7° 5′ N and 26° 5′ N

(b) 8° 4′ N and 37° 6′ N

(c) 12° 5′ N and 27° 5′ N

(d) 12° 5′ N and 37° 6′ N

Answer: (b) 8° 4′ N and 37° 6′ N

**Question 11** Tropic of Cancer passes through which of these states

(a) Orissa

(b) Tripura

(c) Bihar

(d) Punjab

Answer: (b) Tripura

**Question 12** Which of the following longitudes is selected as the Standard Meridian for India?

(a) 68°7′E

(b) 82°30′E

(c) 97°25′E

(d) 23°30′N

Answer: (b) 82°30′E

**Question 13** Which of the following is the oldest route of contact between India and other countries of the world?

(a) Ocean routes

(b) Maritime contact

(c) Land routes

(d) Air routes

Answer: (c) Land routes

**Question 14** The four states which are situated along the Himalayas are:

(a) Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh

(b) Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan

(c) Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand

(d) Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (a) Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh

**Question 15** India achieved multi-faceted socio-economic progress during which of the following periods?

(a) Since ancient times

(b) During medieval period

(c) In the 21st century

(d) During the last five decades

Answer: (d) During the last five decades

**Question 16** Which of the following is the longitudinal extent of India?

(a) 8°4′N and 37°6′N

(b) 68°7′N and 97°25′E

(c) 68°7′E and 97°25′W

(d) 8°4′E and 37°6′E

Answer: (b) 68°7′N and 97°25′E

**Question 17** The eastern-most longitude of India is

(a) 97°25′E

(b) 68°7′E

(c) 77°6′E

(d) 82°32′E

Answer: (a) 97°25′E

**Question 18** Which latitude passes through the southern-most point of India’s mainland?

(a) 8°4′N

(b) 37°6′N

(c) 8°4′S

(d) 82°30′E

Answer: (a) 8°4′N

**Question 19** Which of the following groups of islands belonging to the Indian territory lies in the Arabian Sea?

(a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

(b) Sri Lanka

(c) Lakshdweep

(d) Maldives

Answer: (c) Lakshdweep

**Question 20** What is India’s size with respect to other countries of the world?

(a) First

(b) Third

(c) Fourth

(d) Seventh

Answer: (d) Seventh

**Question 21** Which geographical feature bounds India’s mainland south of 22°N latitude?

(a) Young Fold Mountains

(b) Sandy Desert

(c) Lava Plateaus

(d) Seas and Ocean

Answer: (d) Seas and Ocean

**Question 22** Both the latitudinal and longitudinal extent of India’s mainland is about 30°. But on looking at the map of India which of the following alternatives do you observe about India’s size?

(a) East-west extent appears to be smaller than north-south extent

(b) East-west extent appears to be larger than north-south extent

(c) East-west and north-south extent appears equal

(d) North-south extent appears to be smaller than east-west extent

Answer: (a) East-west extent appears to be smaller than north-south extent

**Question 23** If the local time at Dwarka (69°01′E) in Gujarat to the west of India is 6 am, what will be the local time at Dibrugarh (94°58′E approximately 95°), in Assam, in the east?

(a) 4.16 am

(b) 6 am

(c) 7.44 am

(d) 7.44 pm

Answer: (c) 7.44 am

**Question 24** The Standard Meridian of India, 82°30′E passes through which of the following places?

(a) Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu

(b) Walong in Arunachal Pradesh

(c) Kachchh in Gujarat

(d) Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (d) Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh

**Question 25** Which of the following has reduced India’s distance from Europe by 7000 km?

(a) Suez Canal

(b) Panama Canal

(c) Indira Gandhi Canal

(d) Buckingham Canal

Answer: (a) Suez Canal

**Question 25.** A narrow channel of sea separating two land-masses is called:

(a) Gulf

(b) Strait

(c) Isthmus

(d) Bay

Answer: (b) Strait

**Question 26.**India’s total area accounts for what percentage of the geographical area of the world?

(a) 2.9%

(b) 3.2%

(c) 2.4%

(d) 4.2%

Answer: (c) 2.4%

**Question 27.** In which of the following places, would you find the least difference in the duration between day time and night time?

(a) Kanyakumari

(b) Leh

(b) Srinagar

(d) Itanagar

Answer: (a) Kanyakumari

**Question 28.** Which of the following Union Territories is located along the west coast of India?

(a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

(b) Chandigarh

(c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli

(d) Puducherry

Answer: (c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli

**Question 29.** Which of the following places of India is located on the three seas?

(a) Port Blair

(b) Kavaratti

(c) Kanyakumari

(d) Kochi

Answer: (c) Kanyakumari

**Question 30.** Which geographical feature bounds India’s mainland south of 22°N latitude?

(a) Young Fold Mountains

(b) Sandy Desert

(c) Lava Plateaus

(d) Seas and Ocean

Answer: (d) Seas and Ocean

**Question 31.** Which of the following figures shows the total area of India’s landmass?

(a) 2.4 million square km

(b) 3.28 million square km

(c) 32.8 million square km

(d) 3.28 million km

Answer: (b) 3.28 million square km

**Question 32.** Which of the following influences the duration of the day and night, as one moves from south to north?

(a) Longitudinal extent

(b) Latitudinal extent

(c) Standard Meridian

(d) All the above

Answer: (b) Latitudinal extent

**Question 33.** Which one of the following water bodies separate Sri Lanka from India?

(a) Palk Strait and Gulf of Khambhat

(b) Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar

(c) Gulf of Mannar and 10° Channel

(d) 10° Channel and Gulf of Khambhat

Answer: (b) Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar

**Question 34.** What is the length of Indian coastline?

(a) 8716 km

(b) 7165 km

(c) 9515 km

(d) 7516 km

Answer: (d) 7516 km

**Question 35.** Indian Standard Time or I.S.T. is how many hours ahead or behind of G.M.T. or

Universal Time?

(a) 5 hrs 30 min behind G.M.T.

(b) 15 hrs ahead of G.M.T.

(c) 5 hrs 30 min ahead of G.M.T.

(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) 5 hrs 30 min ahead of G.M.T.

**Short Answer Type Questions**

**Question 1**. The total length of the coastline of the mainland including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:7,516.6 km

**Question 2**. The neighbouring countries that share their boundaries with India are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, Nepal and Bhutan.

**Question 3**. What is the longitudinal extent of India ?

Answer:68°7’E to 97°25’E

**Question 4**. What is the latitudinal extent of India ?

Answer:8°4’N and 37°6’N

**Question 5**. Which is the smallest state in India ?

Answer: Goa

**Question 6.** The north-south extent of India is about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: 3,214 km

**Question 7.** Which states does not share any international boundary ?

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

**Question 8.** Which canal has reduced India’s distance from Europe by 7,000 km ?

Answer: Suez Canal

**Question 9.** What influences the duration of the day and night as one moves from south to north ?

Answer: Latitudinal extent

**Question 10.** Which ocean has been named after a country ?

Answer: Indian Ocean

**Question 11.** What is a strait ?

Answer: A narrow channel of sea that connects two layer bodies of water. Question 12. China is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ largest country in the world ?

Answer: Fourth

**Question 13.** From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, the time lag is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: 2 hours

**Question 14.** The southernmost point of Indian mainland is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Kanniyakumari

**Question 15.** Suez Canal was opened in fke year.

Answer: 1869

**Question 16.** India’s total area account for about of the total geographical area of the world.

Answer: 2.4%

**Question 17.** Which neighbouring country of India is an island ?

Answer: Maldives.

**Question 18.** Name any two states of India that shares international boundaries.

Answer: Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

**Question 19.** State the types of states India had before 1947.

Answer: Before 1947, there were two types of states in India such as the Provinces and Princely States.

**Question 20.** Which is the largest state (area-wise) of India ?

Answer: Rajasthan.

**Question 21.** Name the Indian states which are situated on the eastern coast of India.

Answer: West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

**Question 22.** Name the Indian states which are situated on the western coast of India.

Answer: Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.

**Question 23.** In which year did the Indira Point get submerged under the sea water ?

Answer: Indira Point got submerged under the sea water in 2004 during the Tsunami.

**Question 24.** Name the state that share border with Myanmar.

Answer: Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland.

**Question 25.** Which meridian has been selected as the Standard Meridian of India ?

Answer: 82°32’E has been selected as the Standard Meridian of India.

**Question 26.** In which hemisphere does India lie?

Answer: India lies in the Northern hemisphere.

**Question 27.** Name the parallel of latitude which divides India roughly into two equal halves.

Answer: The parallel of latitude which roughly divide India into two equal halves is the Tropic of Cancer (23° 30′ N).

**Question 28.** Name the two seas located around India.

Answer: The two seas located around India are the Arabian Sea in the west and the Bay of Bengal in the east.

**Question 29.** What is the southernmost point of the Union of India?

Answer: Southernmost point of the Union of India is Indira Point.

Question 30. In which year did ‘Indira Point’ submerge under water due to tsunami?

Answer: In 2004 ‘Indira Point’ got submerged under the sea water.

**Question 31.** Why is the north-south extent of India larger than east-west extent even though the latitudinal and longitudinal extent in degrees is of the same value?

Answer: This is because the distance between two latitudes is always 111 km i.e. always same whereas between two longitudes, it is the maximum at the equator and decreases towards the poles.

**Question 32.** Why has 82°30′ been selected as the standard meridian of India?

Answer: 82°30′ E has been selected as the standard meridian of India because it passes through the centre of India, i.e. Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh.

**Question 33.** What is the total north-south extent of India in km?

Answer: The north-south extent of India in kilometre is 3,214 km.

**Question 34**. What is the total east-west extent of India in km?

Answer: The total east-west extent of India is 2,933 km.

**Question 35.** How had India kept her relationship with the world in ancient times?

Answer: Passes in the mountains of the Himalayas provided passages to the ancient travellers while the oceans restricted this as people were afraid to travel by oceans.

**Question 36.** Which ideas of India could reach the world?

Answer: The ideas of the Upanishads and the Ramayana, the stories of Panchtantra, the Indian numerals, decimal system could reach many parts of the world.

**Question 37.** Which commodities were exported from India?

Answer: The spices, muslin cloth and many other commodities were exported from India.

Question 38. From which regions and styles India got influenced in ancient times?

Answer: India got influenced from greek sculpture, the architectural styles of dome and minarets from west Asia in the ancient times.

**Question 39.** Which is the largest and smallest state of India areawise?

Answer: The largest state is Rajasthan and the smallest state is Goa.

**Question 40.** Name the states of India which do not have an international border or lie on the coast.

Answer: The states are Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Jharkhand.

**Question 41**. Name the states of India which have common border with Pakistan.

Answer: The states are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

**Question 42**. Name the states of India which have common border with China.

Answer: The states are Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

**Question 43.** Name the states of India which have common border with Myanmar.

Answer: The states are Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram.

**Question 44.** Mention the types of states in India present before 1947.

Answer: The two types of states in India were:

(a) the provinces

(b) the princely states.

**Question 45.** Who ruled the princely states?

Answer: Princely states were ruled by the local hereditary rulers.

Question 46. Name the country that has common land frontier with the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.

Answer: The country is Nepal.

**Question 47.** Name the states through which the Tropic of Cancer passes.

Answer: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.

**Question 48.** Name the Union Territories of India.

Answer: The Union Territories are Delhi, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Puducherry.

Question 49. With which country Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat share international boundary?

Answer: The country is Pakistan.

Question 50. Name the states of India which lie along the eastern coast of India from North to South.

Answer: The states lying along the eastern coast are West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

**Question 51.** Name the two states of India which are parts of Indian desert.

Answer: Gujarat and Rajasthan are parts of Indian Desert.

**Short Answer Type Questions**

**Question 1**. How does India occupy an important strategic position in South Asia ?

Answer: India occupies an important strategic position in South Asia in the following ways :

(a) The Indian landmass has a central location between the East and the West Asia.

(b) The trans Indian Ocean routes, which connect the countries of Europe in the West and the countries of East Asia, provide a strategic central location to India.

(c) The Deccan Peninsula protrudes into the Indian Ocean has helped India to establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast and with Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast.

**Question 2.** What is the name of the southernmost point of India ? Why is it not visible today ?

Answer:

* The southernmost point of India is Indira Point. The Indira point is situated in the Great Nicobar Group of Island in Andaman Nicobar island.
* It is not visible today because it was submerged under the sea water in the 2004 during the Tsunami.

**Question 3.** What is latitude? What is the latitudinal extent of India?

Answer:

* The position of a place, measured in degrees north or south of the Equator. It is mostly calculated because of angular distance of a place north-south of the equator,
* The main land of India extends between latitudes 8°4′ N and 37°6′ N.
* The latitudinal extension shows that India is located in the Northern Hemisphere.

**Question 4.** Which ocean is named after India ? Give two reasons as to why it was named after India.

Answer: The Indian Ocean is named after India. India is the only country which has the credit of an ocean named after it. The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, extensions of the Indian Ocean, lie to the west and east of Indian Peninsula, and the Indian Ocean lies to its south. No other country has a long coastline on the Indian Ocean as India. The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean has provided India a strategic location of great significance along the trans Indian Ocean routes. It is India’s eminent position in the Indian Ocean which justifies the naming of the ocean after India.

**Question 5.** Why is India called a subcontinent?

Answer: India is called a subcontinent because :

* It is a big landmass. This stands out as a distinct geographical unit from the rest of the continent.
* It is separated by natural features like mountains and rivers.
* India is also separated from rest of the continent by the mighty Himalayas.

**Question 6.** How have been mountain passes been helpful in India since historic times? Explain.

Answer: India is bounded by the young fold mountains in the northwest, north and northeast. The various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travelers. The spices, muslin and other merchandise’ were taken from India to different countries through these passes. Mountain passes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since historic times.

**Question 7.** What is the latitudinal extent of India? How is the latitudinal spread in India advantageous to her?

Answer: The latitudinal extent of India lies between 8°4’ N and 37°6’ N. This means that the longitudinal expanse is about 30° from west to east.

The advantages of longitudinal spread are :

(a) It influences the duration of the day and night as one moves from South to North.

(b) It also helps to take advantage of the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on its east for sea movements.

**Question 8.** Why do the days and nights are almost of equal duration at Kanniyakumari?

Answer: Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu is located at the southernmost tip of India’s main land. The latitude 8°4’ N passes close to it. The place is thus near the equator and lies close to the Equatorial region. As the sun shines directly over the Equator throughout the year, the durations of day and night are almost equal here. Hence, in Kanniyakumari, the difference in the duration of day and night is very little.

**Question 9.** Why Is the knowledge of latitude and longitude important for people?

Answer: The knowledge of latitude and longitude is important for people because it helps them to understand and locates the geographical location and globe better. The use of latitudes and longitudes offer a better and quick grasp of geographical facts.

It determines the time zones of the different regions of the world. With the help of longitudes and latitudes, it is easy to calculate local time and standard time. Longitudes and latitudes also help in calculating the distance from one place to another.

**Question 10**. What do you know about the neighbours of India?

Answer: India occupies an important strategic position in South Asia. India shares its land boundaries with Afghanisatan and Pakistan in the northwest; China, Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east. The island states of Sri Lanka and Maldives are our southern neighbours across the sea. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Manner, while Maldives Islands are situated to the South of the Lakshadweep Islands. Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India form the most natural geographical unit, often referred to as the Indian subcontinent.

**Question 11.** Write the size and extent of India.

Answer: (a) India is the 7th largest country in the world. It has an area of 3.28 million square km. It accounts for 2.4% of the world’s total area.

(b) India has a land frontier of 15,200 km.

(c) India has a coastline of 7516.6 km including the Andaman and Nicobar islands and the Lakshadweep islands.

**Question 12.** Explain why 82°30′ E an odd value has been chosen as the standard meridian of India.

Answer: The odd value has been chosen as the standard meridian because the longitudinal extent of India is 68°7′ E to 97°25′ E and this meridian passes through the centre of India.

It passes through Mirzapur i.e. the centre of India. Then there is an understanding among the countries of the world that the degrees of the meridian should be divisible by 7 i,e. 82° 30′ E. This enables us to overcome the difference of 2 hours of time between Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat. The time is Indian Standard Time.

**Question 13.** Why is the difference between the durations of day and night hardly felt at Kanyakumari but not so in Kashmir?

Answer: The difference in the durations of day and night and Kanyakumari and Kashmir are respectively due to their latitudinal locations. Kanyakumari is located closer to the equator and experiences a maximum difference of 45 minutes between day and night. However, Kashmir lies further away from the equator and experience a significant gap between the duration of day and night that can extend to as much as 3-5 hours.

**Question 14.** What is a subcontinent? Name the countries that constitute the Indian subcontinent. How is India different from other countries of Asia?

Answer: A subcontinent is a distinctive geographical unit which stands out distinctively from rest of the region because of its large size, varied climates, varied relief etc.

Countries that make up the Indian subcontinent are – India at the centre, Pakistan in the west, Nepal and China (Tibet) in the north, Bhutan and Bangladesh in the east.

India is different from other countries of Asia regarding climate, vegetation and culture.

**Question 15.** Justify the naming of Indian Ocean after India.

Answer: India ocean is named after India because:

(a) India has a long coastline on the Indian Ocean.

(b) India has a central location between east and west Asia.

(c) India’s southernmost extension, the Deccan Peninsula, protrudes into the Indian Ocean which makes it significant to international trade done through the Indian Ocean.

(d) India was the favourite destination of the traders of the world.

**Question 16.** What do you know about India and her neighbours?

Answer: (a) India occupies an important strategic position in south-east Asia. India has 29 states, 6 Union

Territories and one National Capital Territory.

(b) India shares her land borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the north-west, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north, and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east. Our southern neighbours across the sea consists of two island countries i.e. Sri Lanka and Maldives.

(c) Sri Lanka is separated from India by Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar while Maldives islands are situated to the south of the Lakshadweep islands.

**Question 17.** India’s land routes have been important since ancient times. Explain.

Answer: (a) India’s contacts with the outside world have continued through the ages, but her relationships

through the land routes are much older than her maritime contacts.

(b) The various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers. These routes (Kyber and Bolan pass) across the mountains have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times.

(c) The ideas of Upanishads and the Ramayana, the stories of Panchatantra, the Indian numerals,

the decimal system could reach many parts of the world through the land routes. The spices and muslin cloth along with other commodities were taken from India to other countries. The Greek sculpture and the architectural style of dome and minarets from west Asia can be seen in many parts of our country. This is the result of the exchange of commodities and ideas movement of people.

**Long Answer Questions**

**Question 1**. Why is the central location of India advantageous for the country?

Answer : India has a strategic advantage due to its location in the center of the Indian Ocean, as the Trans Indian Ocean routes connect her to countries in Europe and Asia. India's strategic location in the ocean allows it to create ties with West Asia, Africa, and Europe. Since ancient times, India's wide coastline and natural harbors have aided in trade and commerce with neighbouring and distant countries. It is extremely beneficial for trade with Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Europe. India benefits from the south-west monsoon seasons because of its marine location.

**Question 2**. The sun rises two hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh than in Gujarat. In spite of this fact, all the watches show the same time. Why?

Answer: There is a two-hour time difference between Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh, although the watches show the same time since the time along the Standard Meridian of India i.e., 82° 30' E passing through Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh is used as the country's standard time. Because the same standard time has been established for the entire country, watches in Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat, as well as the rest of the country, display the same time.

**Question 3.** Which countries neighbour India?

Answer: India is bounded on the north by China-the country with the largest land area, 96 lakh square kilometers, Nepal, and Bhutan, on the south by Sri Lanka, on the east by Myanmar and Bangladesh, on the west by Pakistan, and on the north-west by Afghanistan. The Maldives, India's smallest neighbour which expands over 298 square kilometers is situated to the south-east of the country. India maintains trade and cultural ties with these neighbours.

**Question 4.** Write a short note on the silk route.

Answer: The silk route is a centuries-old commercial route that connects Asia to the Mediterranean Sea. It traverses and connects China, India, Greece, Persia, and Italy. Silk traffic was done through this route throughout the ancient period, and therefore the term silk route. Silk was developed in China and exported to other countries. Furthermore, the root aided the commerce of muslin, spices, and other commodities from India.

**Question 5.** Why are the Himalayas important for India?

Answer: The Himalayas are a significant physical barrier that separates the Indian subcontinent from the rest of the world. They serve as both a military and a climatic barrier. The Himalayas also keep the cold and chilly winds from the north polar regions from influencing the Indian subcontinent's climate as a result there are no harsh winters. It also prevents moisture-laden winds from the south from blowing into Central Asia, resulting in rainfall across the subcontinent. As the Himalayas are known as the "abode of snow," they are the source of numerous perennial rivers and their tributaries. Throughout the year, these rivers provide water for irrigation and agricultural purposes. They store a massive amount of valuable minerals that are vital to the country. It has diverse biodiversity, with a wide range of fauna and flora.

**Question 6.** How has the long coastline been beneficial to India?

Answer: The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, extensions of the Indian Ocean, lie to the west and east of Indian Peninsula, and the Indian Ocean lies to its south. The total length of the coastline of the main land of India including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep is 7516.6 km. The long coastline of India has helped in maritime trade since ages. The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean has provided it a strategic location along the trans-Indian Ocean routes. India can establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from western coast and with Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast. The long coastline has also played a major role in influencing the climate of India. It provides opportunities for fishing and extraction of petroleum. It serves as a natural boundary protecting India.

**Question 7.** What was the contribution of land routes to India in ancient times? Explain.

Answer: The contribution of land routes to India in ancient times are given below :

(a) The large land boundaries of India have helped to develop links with her neighbouring countries.

(b) It contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times.

(c) The ideas of the Upanishads, the Ramayana, the Geeta, etc. have become known to the world.

(d) The Indian numerals as well as the decimal system long back crossed the border. The Arabs took these ideas to the West.

(e) The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken away from India to different countries through these land routes.

(f) On the other hand, the influence of Greek sculpture, and the architectural styles of dome and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of our country. (Any five points)

**Question 8.** Write a note on the location and size of India.

Answer: Location: India is a vast country. Lying entirely in the Northern hemisphere, the main land extends between latitudes 8°4’N and 37°6’N and longitudes 68°7’E and 97°25’E. The Tropic of Cancer (23°30’N) divides the country into almost two equal parts. To the southeast of India’s main land lie the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal and to the southwest lie the Lakshadweep islands in the Arabian Sea.

Size: The land mass of India has an area of 3.28 million square km. India’s total area accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the total geographical area of the world.

India is the seventh largest country of the world. India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km and the total length of the coastline of the mainland, including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, is 7,516.6 km. It has an east-west extent of 2,933 km from Arunachal Pradesh to Kachchh in Gujarat and a north-south extent of 3,214 km from Kashmir to Kanniyakumari.

The southern part of the country is in form of a peninsula, tapering towards the Indian Ocean in the south. It is bounded by the Arabian Sea in the southwest and the Bay of Bengal in the southeast.

**Question 9**. How had the passes through the mountains been useful in the ancient times for India?

Answer:

* India has been linked to the rest of the world via mountain routes in the north, north-east, and north-west.
* Since time immemorial, these routes have been used for transportation. These routes were utilized by ancient travelers to travel to and from India.
* India provided the world with its number and decimal systems. These routes were used to spread the famous epics of Ramayana and Mahabharat, as well as the Upanishads and the Panchatantra.
* These channels have allowed for the movement of commodities and ideas. The Greek architectural style was adopted by India.