

GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER - 1

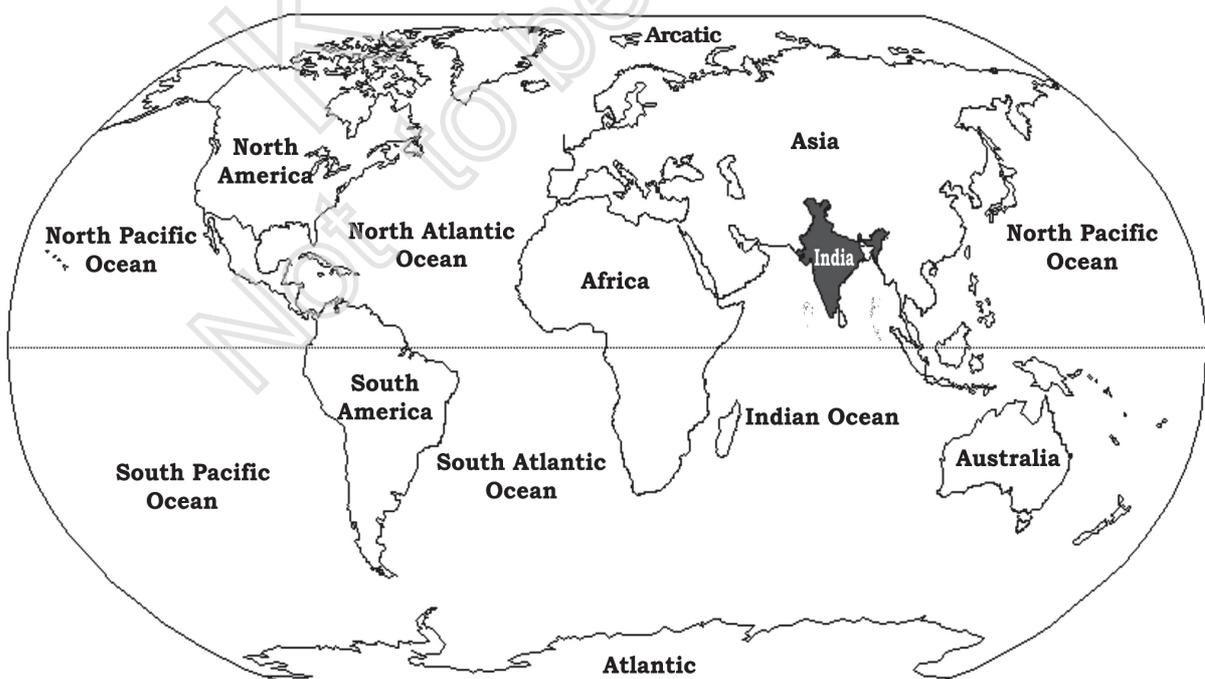
INDIA - OUR MOTHER LAND

We learn about the following in this chapter:

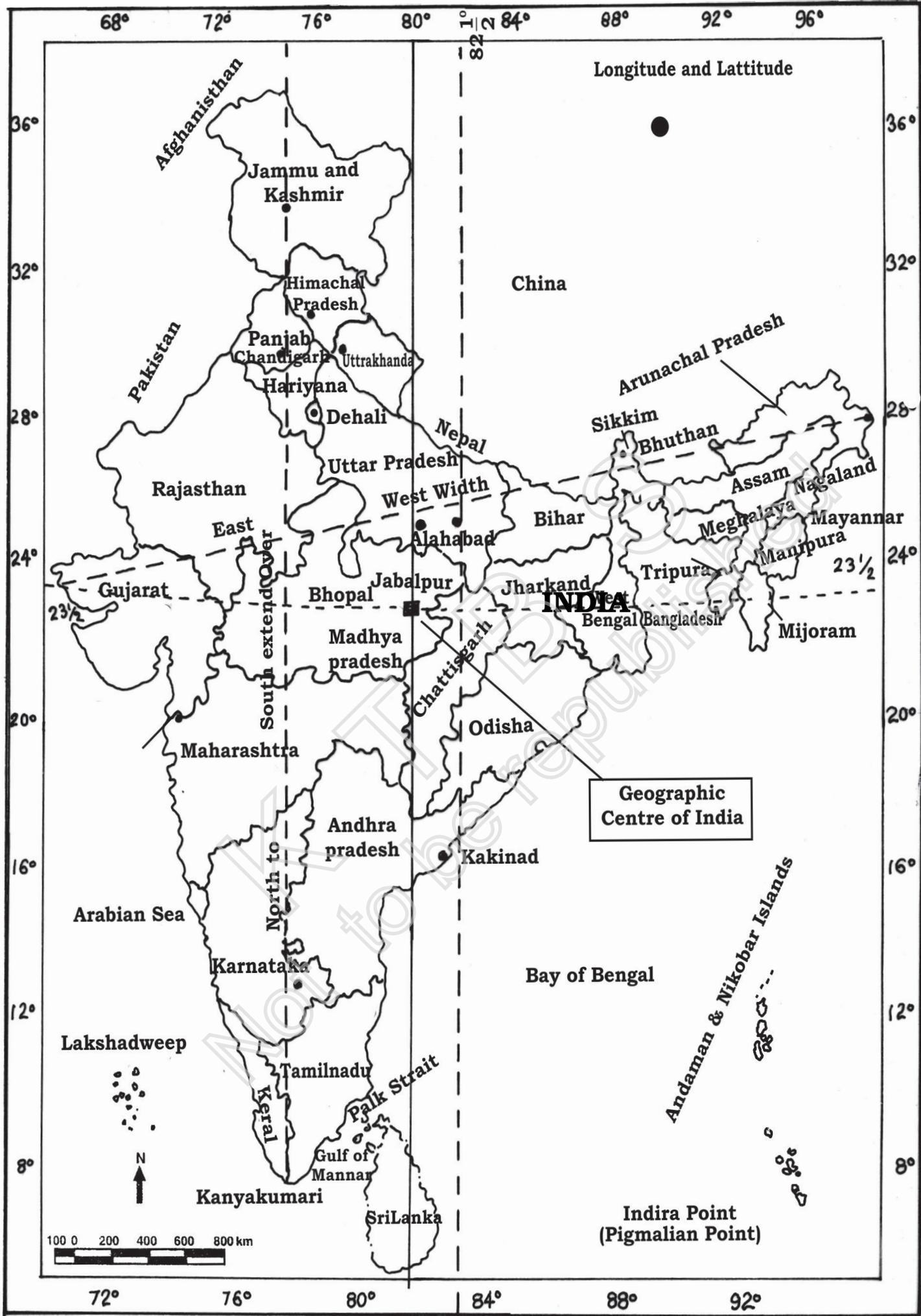
- *Heritage of our country*
- *the origin of the word 'Bharat'*
- *India's geographical location, extent, land and water boundaries and the neighbouring countries.*

India exhibits unity in diversity, from ancient times. This variety is unique to our country in the entire world, and as such, has given a rich heritage. When we observe a diverse of physical features, climatic conditions, natural vegetation and people, we feel this country can be called a subcontinent.

India's position in the world: India is a peninsula located in South-East Asia. It is also called 'India' and 'Hindustan'. The name 'India' has been derived from river Indus. It has been named 'Bharat' after the ancient Indian king Bharata. The country is entirely in the northern hemisphere. It is wide in the north, tapering to form a triangle in the south, ending in the Indian Ocean.



Location of India in the world



Size: India is 32,87,263 square kilometers in area. It is the seventh largest country in the world. It occupies about 2.4% of the world's total area. There are 28 States and 6 Union Territories. New Delhi is also known as the 'National Capital Territory' (**NCT**). As per the 2011 Census, India has a total population of 121 crores. It has about 17.5% of the world's population. India is the second largest country as far as population is concerned and ranks behind China.

Latitudinal position: India extends from $8^{\circ}4'$ to $37^{\circ}6'$ in the North Latituded. The total length from Kanyakumari in the South to Kashmir in the North is 3,214 kms. When the islands are also taken into consideration, 'Indira Point' in the Great Nicobar Islands located at $6^{\circ}45'$ is the southernmost point. The Tropic of Cancer or $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ North Latitude passes through Central part of India.

Longitudinal Position: With regard to its longitudinal position, India extends from $68^{\circ}7'$ east to $97^{\circ}25'$ East longitude. From East to West about 2933 kms. Indian Standard Time is based on $82\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ East longitude passing through Allahabad. Indian time is ahead of Greenwich Meantime (0° latitude) by about 5 hours and 30 minutes.

Frontiers and Neighbouring Countries: India being a peninsula, it has both land and water frontriers too. India has 15200 kms of land frontiers and 6100 kms of coastline.

India shares land frontier with seven nations. In the north-west, it share the with Afghanistan and Pakistan; in the north with China, Nepal and Bhutan; in the east with Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh. Sri Lanka in the south and Maldives in the south-west are also neighbouring countries of India.

Activity :

Mark your neighbouring Districts.

<i>Do you know this?</i>	
<i>neighbouring Countries of India</i>	
<i>Countries</i>	<i>Length of Boundry width India km</i>
<i>Pakistan</i>	3310
<i>Afghanistan</i>	80
<i>China</i>	3917
<i>Nepal</i>	1752
<i>Bhutan</i>	587
<i>Mayammar</i>	1458
<i>Bangladesh</i>	4096
<i>Srilanka</i>	--
<i>Maldieves</i>	--
India	15200

Do you know this?

- The boundary line between India and Pakistan is called “Radcliffe Line”.
- The boundary line between India and China is called “McMahon Line”.
- The boundary line between India and Afghanistan is called “Durrand Line”.

EXERCISES

I Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

1. The name ‘India’ is derived from the river _____.
2. The total area of India is _____ sq.kms.
3. In the central part of India _____ North latitude passed.
4. _____ country lies to the south of India.
5. India has a coastal line of _____ kms.

II Answer the following after discussing them in groups:

1. In which part of the Asian continent is India situated?
2. In which hemisphere of the earth is India located?
3. Which is the southern tip of mainland of India?
4. Which is the southernmost point of main land of India?
5. Which is the important latitude passes through Central India?
6. In which island is Indira Point located?

III Activities:

Draw a map of India and mark the latitudes and longitudes and also the $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ latitude passing through the central part of India.

IV Project Work:

- 1) Draw a map of India and mark the various States and Union Territories with the help of your teachers.
- 2) Draw the outline map of India, mark your neighbouring countries.