

Geography of India

Indian Administrative Services (IAS) is a truly dream career for a lot of aspirants. Many aspirants, who want to prepare for IAS exam, want to know how to clear IAS exam and what strategy should be follow? Many of them are ready to put the hard work and dedication it takes, but are less sure about how to begin with their preparation.

Geography is so vast in its syllabus that it covers the most section of the General Studies for the IAS Prelims Exam. The geography is scientific in its orientation and hence the candidates having Arts background find it very difficult to prepare the geography for the IAS Prelims Exam. But, the candidates cannot escape or overlook the geography because there are various aspects of geography which enormously helps in the overall General Studies Preparations. For example, the economy of our country is heavily dependent on the Monsoon but Monsoon is a geographical phenomenon. Moreover, we are talking about the demographic dividends but we can study the aspects of population growth under Population Geography and related avenues under Human Geography.

Geographical Location of India

India is a country of great geographical extent. It belongs to Asia which is the largest continent of the world. It forms a part of south Asia and is separated by the Himalayas from the rest of the continent. In the north are the lofty Himalayas, parts ice-covered. To the south of Himalayas is the Great Indo-Gangetic Plain. The western part of this vast plain is Thar Desert.

- √ India is located at the head of the Indian Ocean. India had a glorious past. Indian Ocean has been named by the ancient geographers. Our country holds a commanding position with respect to the Indian Ocean and a central position in relation to Asia, Africa and Australia. Thus, it enjoys a strategic position especially with reference to the international trade route connecting the eastern and the western hemispheres.
- √ Indian mainland extends in the tropical and sub-tropical zones from latitude 8°4' north to 37°6'

north and from longitude 68°7' east to 97°25' east. The southernmost point in Indian territory, the Indira Point (formerly called Pygmalion Point), is situated at 6°30' north in the Nicobar Islands. The country thus lies wholly in the northern and eastern hemispheres. The northernmost point of India lies in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and it is known as Indira Col.

- √ With an area of 32,87,263 sq km India is the seventh largest country of the world after Russia (1,70,75,000 sq km), Canada (99,76,140 sq km), China (95,97,000 sq km), the U.S.A. (93,63,169 sq km), Brazil (85,11,965 sq km) and Australia (76,82,300 sq km). India accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the total surface area of the world.
- √ India country is divided into almost equal parts by the Tropic of Cancer (passes from Jabalpur in MP).
- √ The southernmost point in Indian Territory, (in Great Nicobar Island) is the *Indira Point* (6°45'),

- while Kanyakumari, also known as Cape Comorin, is the southernmost point of Indian mainland. The country thus lies wholly in the northern and eastern hemispheres.
- √ The 82°30' E longitude is taken as the Standard Time Meridian of India, as it passes through the middle of India (from Naini, near Allahabad).
 - √ India is nearly twenty times as large as Great Britain, the country which ruled us for about two centuries. Many of the Indian states are larger than several countries of the world.
 - √ Area and Boundaries India stretches 3,214 km at its maximum from north to south and 2,933 km at its maximum from east to west.
 - √ The total length of the mainland coastline is nearly 6,100 km and the land frontier measures about 15,200 km. The total length of the coastline, including islands, is about 7500 km. With an area of about 32,87,782 sq km, India is the seventh largest country in the world, accounting for about 2.4 per cent of total world area. Countries larger than India are Russia, Canada, USA, China, Australia and Brazil. In terms of population, however, India is second only to China.
 - √ India's neighbours in the north are China (Chinese Tibetan Autonomous Region), Nepal and Bhutan. The boundary between India and China is called the Mac Mahon Line. To the northwest India shares a boundary mainly with Pakistan and to the east with Myanmar, while Bangladesh forms almost an enclave within India. Afghanistan is another close neighbour of India towards northwest. The country is shaped somewhat like a triangle with its base in the north (the Himalayas) and a narrow apex in the south (Kanyakumari).
 - √ South of the Tropic of Cancer the Indian land-mass tapers between the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Arabian Sea in the west. The Indian Ocean lies south.

- √ The Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are its two northward extensions. In the south, on the eastern side, the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait separate India from Sri Lanka. India's Islands include the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and the Laccadive (Lakshadweep), Minicoy and Amindive Islands in the Arabian Sea.

Name of the Country	Length of border (in km)	Percentage of total length of border
Bangladesh	4,096	26.95
China	3,971	25.77
Pakistan	3,310	21.78
Nepal	1,752	11.53
Myanmar	1,458	9.59
Bhutan	587	3.86
Afghanistan	80	0.52
Total	15,200	100.00

Administrative Divisions

- At the time of independence in 1947, India was divided into hundreds of small states and principalities. These states were united to form fewer states of larger size and finally organised in 1956 to form 14 states and six union territories. This organisation of Indian states was based upon a number of criteria, the language being one of these.
- Subsequent to this a number of new states have been carved out to meet the aspirations of the local people and to meet the developmental goals. Presently there are **28 States, six Union Territories** and **one National Capital Territory**.

Facts about position of states

- UP borders the maximum number of States-8 (Uttarakhand, HP, Haryana, Rajasthan, M.P., Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar). After UP is Assam, which touches the border of 7 States.
- Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 States : Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripuro, Mizoram.