

INDIA AND THE WORLD

India has always been known to the world as a nation that believes in peace, harmony, progress and development of all mankind.

Since the times of Indus Valley civilization, the people of this sub-continent have maintained friendly and economic relations with other civilizations. The dockyard discovered from Lothal that ages to Indus Valley Civilization proves that items of trade were carried from there. Similarly, Silk Route passing through India is a witness to the splendid trade relations of India.

Similarly, the coming in of various races, sects, religions to India proves that healthy contacts were maintained by the country with many other different countries of the world. The coming up of various dynasties and rulers into India and their intermingling with the Indian culture till date is a proof that the nation has always welcomed people with open hands and a open heart.

This intermingling has contributed a lot to the architecture, literature, education, cuisine, science and technology, art etc. of India as well as of the world. The interaction has been from both the sides. (*Refer to page no. 4 of the NCERT textbook*)

IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW

PASSES: A narrow gap in a mountain range for the people to travel across. Examples of passes in Himalayas – Shipkila, Rohtang, Nathula etc. The famous Silk Route entered India from China through the Nathula Pass in Sikkim.



Image showing a pass

PENNINSULA: A landmass surrounded by an ocean/sea from three sides.

STRAIT: A narrow passage of sea between two land bodies. Example: Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka.

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Neighbouring Countries of India

S.No.	Neighbouring Countries	Direction with reference to India
1	Pakistan	North-West
2	Afghanistan	North-West
3	China	North
4	Nepal	North
5	Bhutan	North
6	Myanmar	East
7	Bangladesh	East
8	Sri Lanka	South (across the ocean)
9	Maldives	South (across the ocean)

The maps of India's neighbouring countries and Indian Sub-continent are different from each other.

Take a close look at both the maps:



Map showing the countries of Indian Sub Continent



Map showing the neighbouring countries of India

The map of Indian Subcontinent does not include China, Myanmar and Afghanistan. Though geographically, they are the neighbouring countries of India along with Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives but they do not form the part of the Indian Subcontinent.

Indian Sub-continent or we can also call it a mini continent is an isolated unit from the rest of the continent. As discussed earlier, the mighty Himalayas, Hindukush and Purvanchals separate this unit from the remaining Asia.

Also, the culture and traditions experienced by the countries of Indian sub-continent are quite similar. Not only this, the topography, climate, flora, fauna, languages spoken, cuisine and art are also overlapping.

Important to know, the sub-continent is named after India – India being the largest country amongst all.

RELATIONS OF INDIA WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

India has always tried to maintain friendly relations with its neighbouring countries. Through India has always been the centremost figure as far as trade, sports, cultural exchange and helping others during disasters is concerned. Geo-political organization like SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) with its member countries [Afghanistan](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Bhutan](#), [India](#), the [Maldives](#), [Nepal](#), [Pakistan](#) and [Sri Lanka](#) work for maintaining a healthy relationship amongst each other.

CONCLUSION

India is a vast country with varied climates in Kanyakumari (near equator) and Kashmir (away from equator), vast latitudinal and longitudinal extents, varied dimensions and the vast population. All these varied features make India a unique country in itself.

ASSIGNMENT (to be done in continuation of the previous assignment)

Q.11. Why is India called a Peninsula ?

Q.12. Do you think the long coastline of India is helpful for the country? Give three valid reasons in support of your answer.

Q.13. Was India an isolated country in the ancient period? Give two valid arguments for your answer.



Latest map of India showing states, capitals and Union Territories