

**Introduction of the chapter**

India is the seventh-largest country in the world, with a total area of 3,287,263 square kilometres (1,269,219 sq mi). Our country has a long history of civilization. Geographically, Pakistan was created out of modern India at the time of independence from the British. India is surrounded by sea on three sides – the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

- With the help of latitudes and longitudes: India is located in the Northern Hemisphere from 8°04' north latitude in the south to 37°06' north latitude in the north, that is, the mainland of India extends from Kanyakumari in the south to Kashmir in the north. The southernmost point of India is Indira Point also known as Persons Pygmalion. In the eastern hemisphere, India stretches from 68°07' east longitude in the west to 97°25' east longitude in the east, i.e. between the western frontier of Gujarat in the west to the eastern frontier of Arunachal Pradesh in the east.
- In relation to the location of neighbouring countries: India is bordered on the north by China (the largest neighbour), Nepal and Bhutan, on the east by Myanmar and Bangladesh, on the south By Sri Lanka, on the west by Pakistan.

Standing at the head of Indian Ocean, India commands an important strategic position on the globe with respect to international trade and social and cultural exchange. No other country has such a vast coastline on an ocean as India has.

Its geographical location gives India a significant upper hand on global trade. Its location also gives it the benefits of South West Monsoon Season.

