

## 1. Details of Module and its structure

Module Detail	
Subject Name	Geography
Course Name	Geography 02 (Class XI, Semester - 2)
Module Name/Title	Location – space relations and India’s place in the world – Part 2
Module Id	kegy_20102
Pre-requisites	At the upper primary level the students have learnt about the size of India, states and union territories of India, India and the adjacent countries.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The students will be able to know the size of India and the great physical diversity it is endowed with.</li><li>2. The students will be able to understand the administrative divisions of India.</li><li>3. The students will be able to understand how India occupies a unique social, economic and cultural space.</li><li>4. The students will be able to understand India as a sub-continent.</li><li>5. The students will be able to know about the neighbouring countries of India and its relations with its neighbours.</li></ol>
Keywords	Cultural pluralism, Ethnicity, Peninsula, Indian sub-continent, Strait, Gulf, Transboundary rivers

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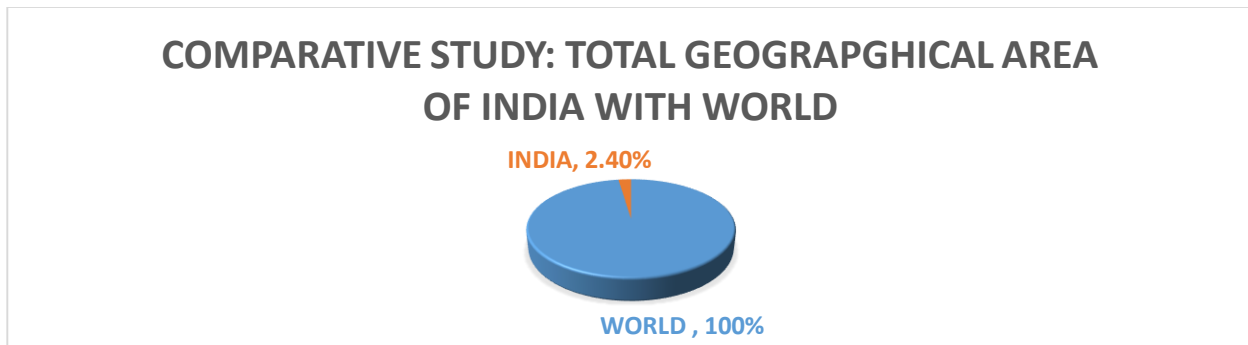
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## Introduction:

In the previous module you have gone through a detailed explanation of the location of India. After that it becomes imperative to know about the size of the country and its neighbouring countries. In the earlier times it was called Indian Sub-continent due to the vast area covered by India. In this module we will discuss about the different aspects related to the size of India such as its total area, its comparison with other large countries of the world, physical diversity due to vast size of the country, administrative divisions, unique social, economic and cultural space and Transboundary Rivers of India.

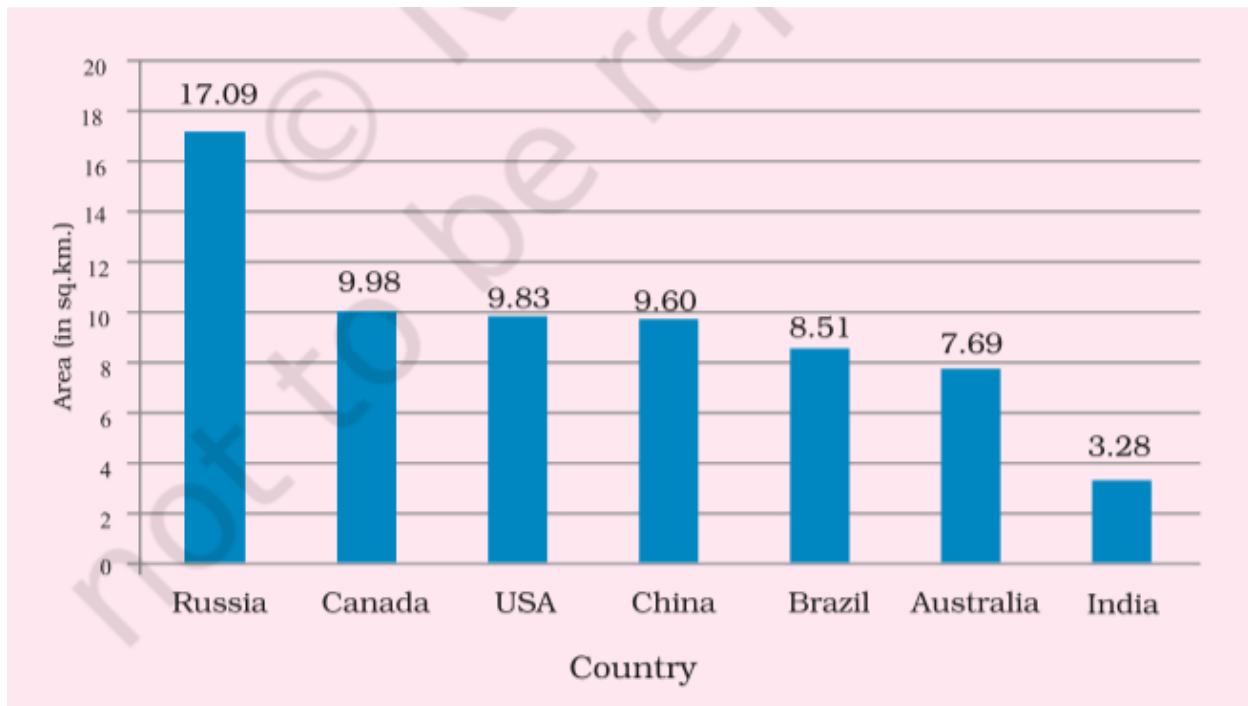
## India: Total geographical area and Comparison with other countries of the world

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 in terms of area. These 7 largest countries of the world in terms of area are in the following sequence – Russia, Canada, United States of America (USA), China, Brazil, Australia and India.



Graph: Total geographical area of India in comparison to the world

Source: self-created



Graph: Seven largest countries of the world in terms of area

Source: NCERT Textbook (taken from Source- United Nations Demographic Year Book 2015)

The above graph shows the seven largest countries of the world in terms of area. The largest country is Russia occupies 17.09 mill.sq.km, the second largest country Canada occupies 9.98mill.sq.km, the third largest country USA occupies 9.83mill.sq.km, the fourth largest country China occupies 9.60mill.sq.km, the fifth largest country Brazil occupies 8.51 mill.sq.km and the sixth largest country Australia (which is the only country as well as a continent in the world) of the world occupies 7.69 mill.sq.km area. This data reveals that the above mentioned countries are either twice or thrice larger than India in size.

It would be interesting for you to know that size of some of the Indian states are equal or more than some of the countries in the world. For example: the total area of Rajasthan (342,239 sq.km) can be compared with Germany (357,022 sq.km), the total area of Maharashtra (307,713 sq. km) is comparable to the size of Italy (301,338 sq.km), the total area of Uttar Pradesh (243,286 sq.km) is comparable to United Kingdom (242,495 sq.km).

Compare the following world political map with the political map of India. Try to find out atleast ten countries of the world that are smaller than some of the states of India.



Map: world map

Source: <https://mapswire.com/maps/world/world-political-map-robinson-large.jpg>

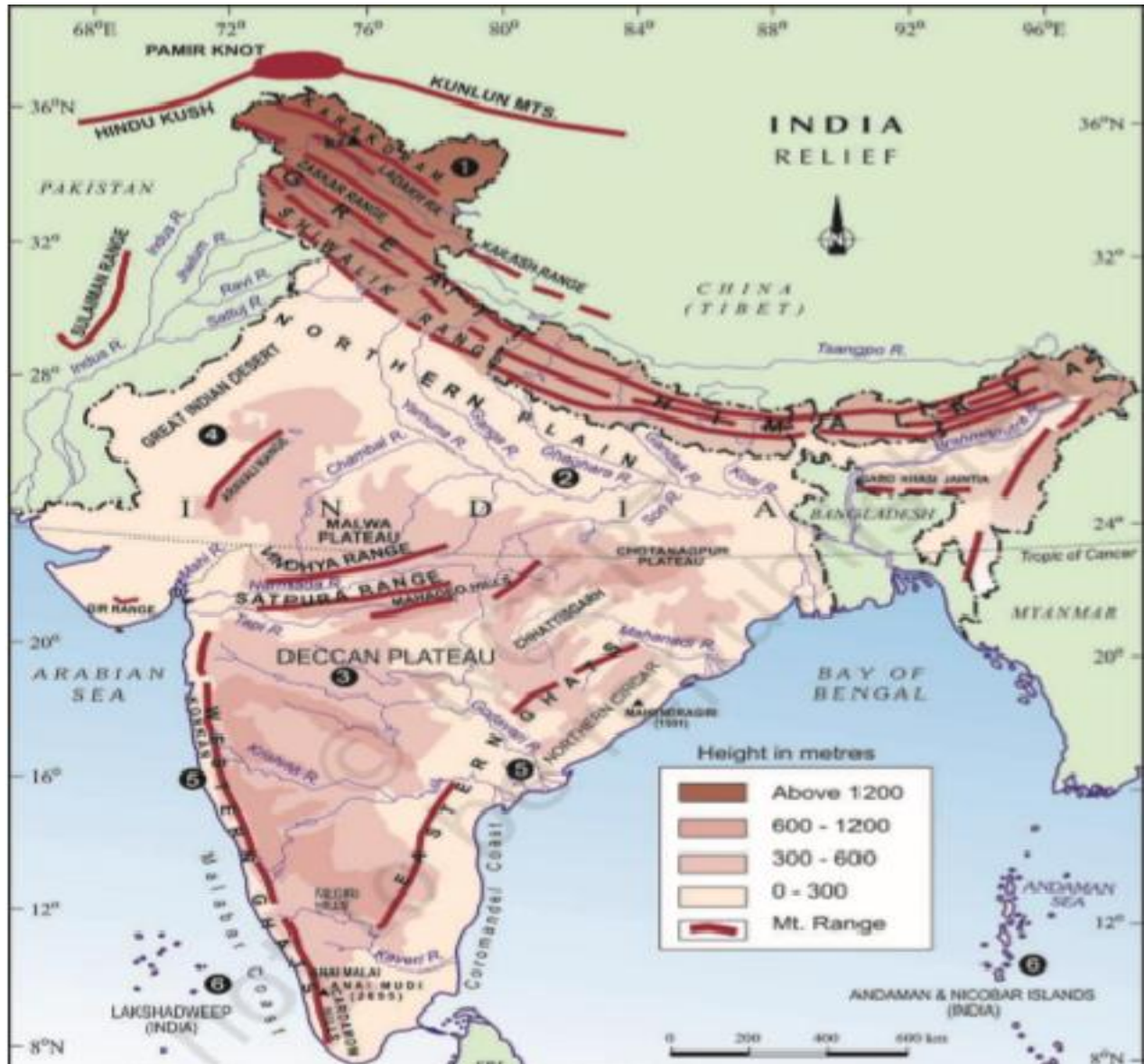


Map: Administrative division of India

Source: NCERT Textbook

## India: Land of Physical diversity

The size of India has endowed her with great physical diversity. Thus, you may appreciate the presence of lofty mountains in the north; large rivers such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri; green forested hills in northeast and south India; and the vast sandy expanse of Marusthali.



Map: India – Relief features

Source: NCERT Textbook

You may further appreciate that India bounded by the Himalayas in the north, Hindukush and Sulaiman ranges in the northwest, Purvanchal hills in the north-east and by the large expanse of



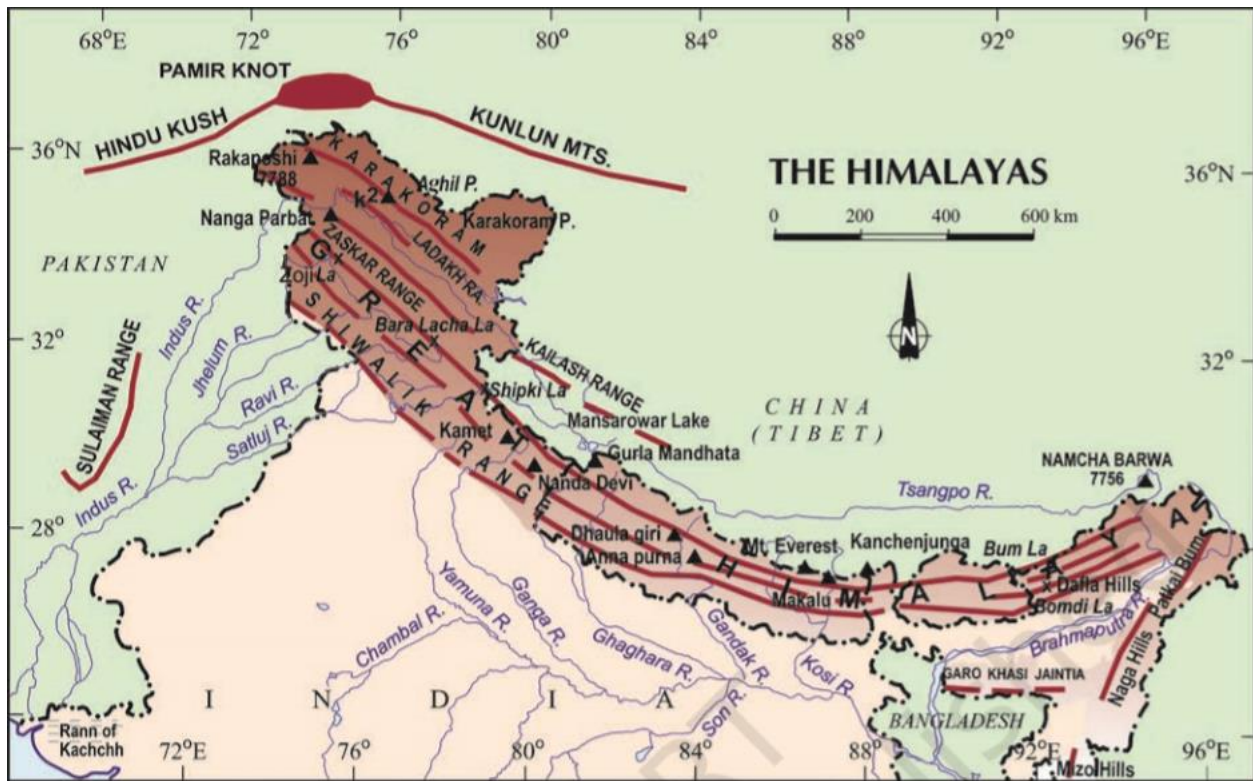
the Indian Ocean in the south, it forms a great geographic entity known as the Indian subcontinent. It includes the countries — Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India.



Map: Indian Sub-continent

Source: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/eb/Indian\\_subcontinent\\_CIA.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/eb/Indian_subcontinent_CIA.png)

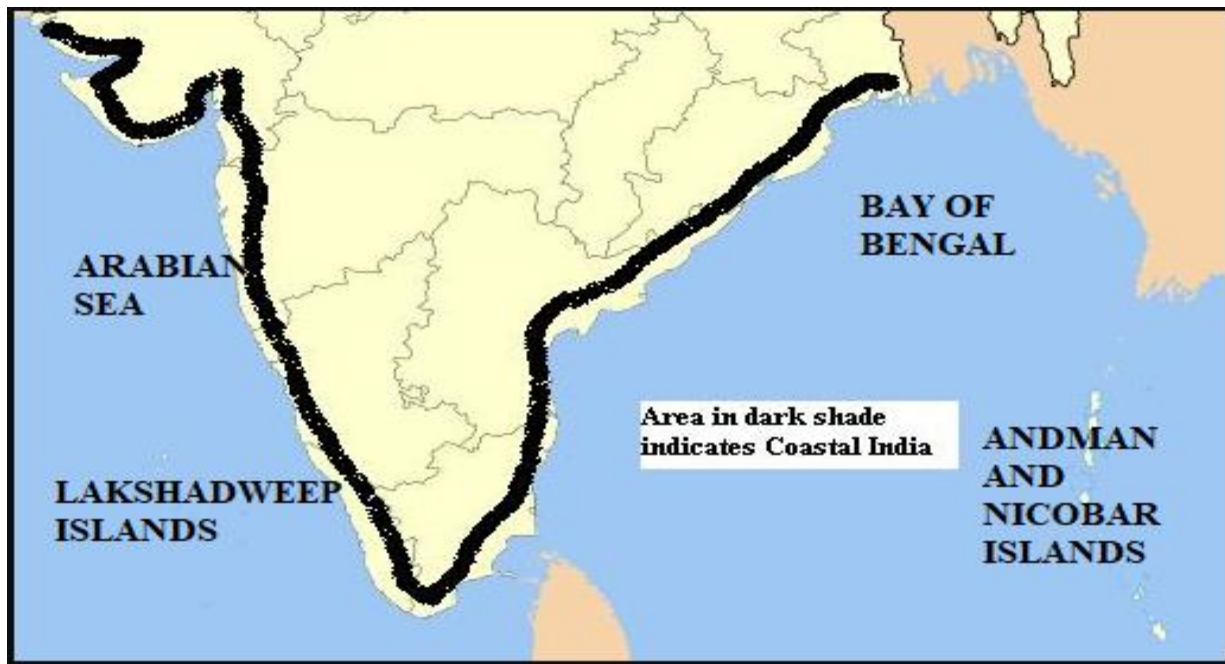
The Himalayas, together with other ranges, have acted as a formidable physical barrier in the past. Except for a few mountain passes such as the Khyber, the Bolan, the Shipkila, the Nathula, the Bomdila, etc. it was difficult to cross it. It has contributed towards the evolving of a unique regional identity of the Indian subcontinent.



Map: The Himalayas and the important passes

Source: NCERT Textbook

By referring to the physical map of India you can now describe the physical variations which you would come across while travelling from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Jaisalmer in Rajasthan to Imphal in Manipur. Peninsular part of India extends towards the Indian Ocean. This has provided the country with a coastline of 6,100 km in the mainland and 7,517 km in the entire geographical coast of the mainland plus the island groups Andaman and Nicobar located in the Bay of Bengal and the Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea. Thus India, as a country, is a physically diverse land providing occurrence of varied resources.

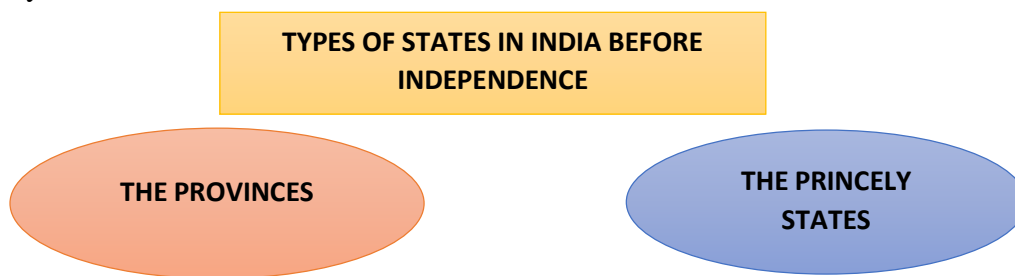


MAP: Coastline of India

Source: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4d/Coastal\\_India.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4d/Coastal_India.jpg)

## Administrative divisions

Before 1947, there were two types of states in India — the provinces and the Princely states. Provinces were ruled directly by British officials, who were appointed by the Viceroy. Princely states were ruled by local, hereditary rulers, who acknowledged sovereignty in return for local autonomy.



Flow chart: Types of states before independence

Source: Self-created

The Indian landmass is composed of 28 states and 8 union territories (including a national capital territory). Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India as a union territory, and constituting the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947, and between India and China since 1962. The region of Jammu and Kashmir is separated by the Line of Control from the Pakistani-









administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and north respectively. It lies to the north of the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and to the west of Ladakh, which is also subject to the dispute as a part of Kashmir, and administered by India as a union territory.






Provisions for the formation of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir were contained within the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organisation Act, 2019, which was passed by both houses of the Parliament of India in August 2019. The act re-constituted the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir as two union territories, 'Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Ladakh', with effect from 31 October 2019. Jammu and Kashmir is the second largest (after Ladakh) and second most populous (after NCT Delhi) union territory of India.









In November 2019, the Government of India introduced legislation to merge the union territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli into a single union territory to be known as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The following table will let you know about the size of each state and union territories of the country and also the country in the world to which it is equivalent to.

RANK OF THE STATES/UT'S	STATES/UNION TERRITORIES	TOTAL AREA (Sq.km.)	AREA WISE COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES
1	<a href="#">Rajasthan</a>	342,238	 <a href="#">Germany</a>
2	<a href="#">Madhya Pradesh</a>	308,350	 <a href="#">Oman</a>
3	<a href="#">Maharashtra</a>	307,713	 <a href="#">Italy</a>
4	<a href="#">Uttar Pradesh</a>	243,290	 <a href="#">United Kingdom</a>
5	<a href="#">Gujarat</a>	196,024	 <a href="#">Senegal</a>
6	<a href="#">Karnataka</a>	191,791	 <a href="#">Syria</a>
7	<a href="#">Andhra Pradesh</a>	162,970	 <a href="#">Tunisia</a>
8	<a href="#">Odisha</a>	155,707	 <a href="#">Bangladesh</a>

9	<a href="#">Chhattisgarh</a>	135,191	 <a href="#">Greece</a>
10	<a href="#">Tamil Nadu</a>	130,058	 <a href="#">Nicaragua</a>
11	<a href="#">Telangana</a>	112,077	 <a href="#">Honduras</a>
12	<a href="#">Bihar</a>	94,163	 <a href="#">Hungary</a>
13	<a href="#">West Bengal</a>	88,752	 <a href="#">Serbia</a>
14	<a href="#">Arunachal Pradesh</a>	83,743	 <a href="#">Austria</a>
15	<a href="#">Jharkhand</a>	79,714	 <a href="#">Czech Republic</a>
16	<a href="#">Assam</a>	78,438	 <a href="#">Scotland</a>
17	<a href="#">Himachal Pradesh</a>	55,673	 <a href="#">Croatia</a>
18	<a href="#">Uttarakhand</a>	53,483	 <a href="#">Bosnia and Herzegovina</a>
19	<a href="#">Punjab</a>	50,362	 <a href="#">Slovakia</a>
20	<a href="#">Haryana</a>	44,212	 <a href="#">Denmark</a>
21	<a href="#">Kerala</a>	38,863	 <a href="#">Bhutan</a>
22	<a href="#">Meghalaya</a>	22,429	 <a href="#">Belize</a>
23	<a href="#">Manipur</a>	22,327	 <a href="#">Slovenia</a>

24	<a href="#">Mizoram</a>	21,081	 <a href="#">El Salvador</a>
25	<a href="#">Nagaland</a>	16,579	 <a href="#">Eswatini</a>
26	<a href="#">Tripura</a>	10,486	 <a href="#">Lebanon</a>
27	<a href="#">Sikkim</a>	7,096	 <a href="#">Cyprus</a>
28	<a href="#">Goa</a>	3,702	 <a href="#">French Polynesia</a>

UT1	<a href="#">Ladakh</a>	59,146	 <a href="#">Croatia</a>
UT2	<a href="#">Jammu and Kashmir</a>	42,241	 <a href="#">Netherlands</a>
UT3	<a href="#">Andaman and Nicobar Islands</a>	8,249	 <a href="#">Puerto Rico</a>
NCT	<a href="#">Delhi</a>	1,483	 <a href="#">Faroe Islands</a>
UT5	<a href="#">Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu</a>	603	 <a href="#">Saint Lucia</a>
UT6	<a href="#">Puducherry</a>	492	 <a href="#">Andorra</a>
UT7	<a href="#">Chandigarh</a>	114	 <a href="#">Wallis and Futuna</a>
UT8	<a href="#">Lakshadweep</a>	32	 <a href="#">Macau</a>

**	<u>Disputed area</u> (between the states)	23	 <u>Nauru</u>
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Table: states and union territories of India and its comparison with different countries of the world

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_states\\_and\\_union\\_territories\\_of\\_India\\_by\\_area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_and_union_territories_of_India_by_area)

## India: A Unique social, economic and cultural space

Due to the vast size of the country India possesses a great diversity in terms of its relief features, social, economic and cultural aspects. For example the relief features of Kerala is different from that of Punjab. The socio-economic and cultural aspects of Gujarat is different from that of Arunachal Pradesh.

A detailed account of the different physiographic units highlights the unique features of each region. It would, however, be clear that each region complements the other and makes the country richer in its natural resources. The mountains are the major sources of water and forest wealth. The northern plains are the granaries of the country. They provide the base for early civilisations. The plateau is a storehouse of minerals, which has played a crucial role in the industrialisation of the country. The coastal region and island groups provide sites for fishing and port activities. Thus, the diverse physical features of the land have immense future possibilities of development.

### The Himalayan Mountains



Source of Perennial Rivers and forest

### The Northern Plains



Called the granaries of the country

### The Peninsular Plateau



Called the storehouse of minerals

### Coastal regions and Islands



Provide sites for fishing and port activities



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Pics: Different physiographic units and their importance

Sources: <https://pixabay.com/photos/himalayas-nepal-mountains-landscape-3989405/>

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/99/Rice\\_fields\\_water\\_tank\\_in\\_punjab.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/99/Rice_fields_water_tank_in_punjab.jpg)

<https://pxhere.com/en/photo/870369>

<https://www.needpix.com/photo/download/521655/catch-fish-fishermen-beach-india-labor-people-laborer-free-pictures>

Greater India, or Indian cultural sphere is an area composed of many countries and regions in South and Southeast Asia that were historically influenced by Indian culture and languages. The term *Greater India* is used to encompass the historical and geographic extent of all political entities of the Indian subcontinent, and the regions which are culturally linked to India or received significant *Sanskritisation* and Indian cultural influence.

These countries have been transformed to varying degrees by the acceptance and induction of cultural and institutional elements of India. Since around 500 BCE, Asia's expanding land and maritime trade had resulted in prolonged socio-economic and cultural stimulation and diffusion of Hindu and Buddhist beliefs into the region's cosmology, in particular in Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka. In Central Asia, transmission of ideas were predominantly of a religious nature.



Pic: Buddhist place of worship

Source: <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/542620>

To the north, Indian religious ideas were accepted into the cosmology of Himalayan peoples, most profoundly in Tibet and Bhutan. Buddhist monasticism extended into Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and other parts of Central Asia, and Buddhist texts and ideas were readily accepted in China and Japan

in the east. To the west, Indian culture converged with Greater Persia via the Hindukush and the Pamir Mountains.

The cultural richness in India is unparalleled in the world. People of different faiths, religions, castes, creed work and live together retaining proudly their own faith and identity and sharing a common bond of being. This is known as **cultural pluralism**. Cultural pluralism is also seen in various festivals, cuisines and art forms of India.



Pic: cultural pluralism

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious\\_pluralism#/media/File:Kazan\\_church.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_pluralism#/media/File:Kazan_church.jpg)

Let us take the example of art forms. Some of the popular dance forms are Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Kathakali, Mohiniattam and Odissi. Folk dances like Bhangra of Punjab, Bihu of Assam and Chhau of Jharkhand are world famous.



Pic: Different dance forms in India

Source: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/15/Classical\\_dances\\_of\\_India.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/15/Classical_dances_of_India.jpg)



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The best known architectural styles of India include the Hindu temple architecture and the Indo—Islamic architecture. The Hindu temple architecture is mainly divided into Dravidian and Nagara styles, whereas the development of the Indo- Islamic architecture took place during the rule of the Delhi Sultanate. During the British rule the European styles of architecture also became prevalent across India.



Pic: Dravidian style temple

Source:<https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-oeati>

Settlements are also influenced by physical factors such as physical features, climatic conditions and availability of water. Cultural factors such as social structure and very often security reasons such as defense also influence the type and distribution of settlements.

Rural settlements are supported by land based primary economic activities. Also, social relations among the rural people are intimate. This can be clearly seen in the agricultural based villages of the Northern plains.

The Himalayan mountains have limited natural resources for sustenance and relative inaccessibility which generates high degree of cultural diversity, including locally adapted sustainable food systems like fishing, hunting and gathering forest produce. The socio- economic well-being of the mountain communities is challenged by the fragile environment, physical isolation, inadequate to markets and inputs, low resource productivity and resultant vulnerability to risks from a variety of natural hazards like earthquakes, landslides and avalanches.

## **Opportunities and challenges**

India being a vast country in terms of size having both opportunities and challenges. Sometimes this large size seems a strength whereas sometimes it proves to be weakness for the country. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh India is one and due to this oneness India gets the following opportunities.

1. India being a vast country you can imagine the types of bio-forms available throughout the country. Our country India is one of the 12 mega bio-diversity countries of the world. With

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about 47,000 plant species India occupies tenth place in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity.

2. India is also rich in its fauna. It has approximately 90,000 animal species. The country has about 2,000 species of birds. They constitute 13% of the world's total.
3. It makes the country rich in terms of socio-economic and cultural aspects. And thus there is unity in diversity.
4. Different parts of the country having different types of relief features, temperature, rainfall pattern and soil types. All these varied conditions makes the country conducive for growing different crop. This makes the country self - sufficient and brings food security. Variety of crops grown in the country supports the agro based industries also.
5. Due to the large size of the country India is well endowed with different types of mineral resources supporting the mineral based industries and acts as a backbone for industrial development.

Due to the large size of the country India has to face the following problems:

1. There are different religions, languages and dialects in different parts of India and sometimes it becomes difficult to maintain a balance.
2. A large country like India face the problem of implementation of laws throughout the country in an effective manner.
3. Big sized countries like India sharing international boundaries with number of other countries in the world and they have a regular border disputes mainly for the annexation of the bordering areas.
4. There is need to balance the transport, economy and trade of the country all the time.
5. Large countries like India always have the problem of time zones. Like India also has to set one common time for the whole country.
6. Big countries like India calls for the need of resource planning as there is uneven distribution of resources throughout the country.

## **India and its neighbours**

India is located in the south-central part of the continent of Asia, bordering the Indian Ocean and its two arms extending in the form of Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. This maritime location of Peninsular India has provided links to its neighbouring regions through the sea and air routes. India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east. Sri Lanka and Maldives are the two island countries located in the Indian Ocean, which are our southern neighbours. Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait.





Map: Neighbouring countries of India

Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India\\_and\\_Neighbouring\\_Countries\\_Map\\_\(official\\_borders\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India_and_Neighbouring_Countries_Map_(official_borders).png)



Map: Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait

Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sri\\_Lanka\\_Regions\\_Map.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sri_Lanka_Regions_Map.png)

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*According to the “Trilingual dictionary” published by NCERT – Gulf is a large portion of a sea or an ocean partially enclosed by a land. It is more enclosed than a bay and generally tapering towards the land.*

*Strait: A strait is a naturally formed, narrow, typically navigable waterway that connects two larger bodies of water. Most commonly it is a channel of water that lies between two land masses. Some straits are not navigable, for example because they are too shallow.*

Since from time immemorial physical barrier had placed a hindrance in interaction with our neighbouring countries in modern times. In the ancient times traders had to cross the mountain passes which was a difficult task. With the passage of time we have overcome these difficulties due to the technological advancement in terms of transport and communication.

## **Conclusion:**

In the end of this module it can be concluded that India is a vast country in terms of size. Being the 7<sup>th</sup> largest country of the world it occupies a significant proportion of the world's area. If we ignore some of the problems led due to the vast size of the country, it can be noted that its vast size makes the country rich in terms of agriculture, minerals, flora, fauna and many others. It brings cultural richness and oneness among the people of the country. It would be true to say that India is a land of unity in diversity and the beauty of the country lies in its vast size.