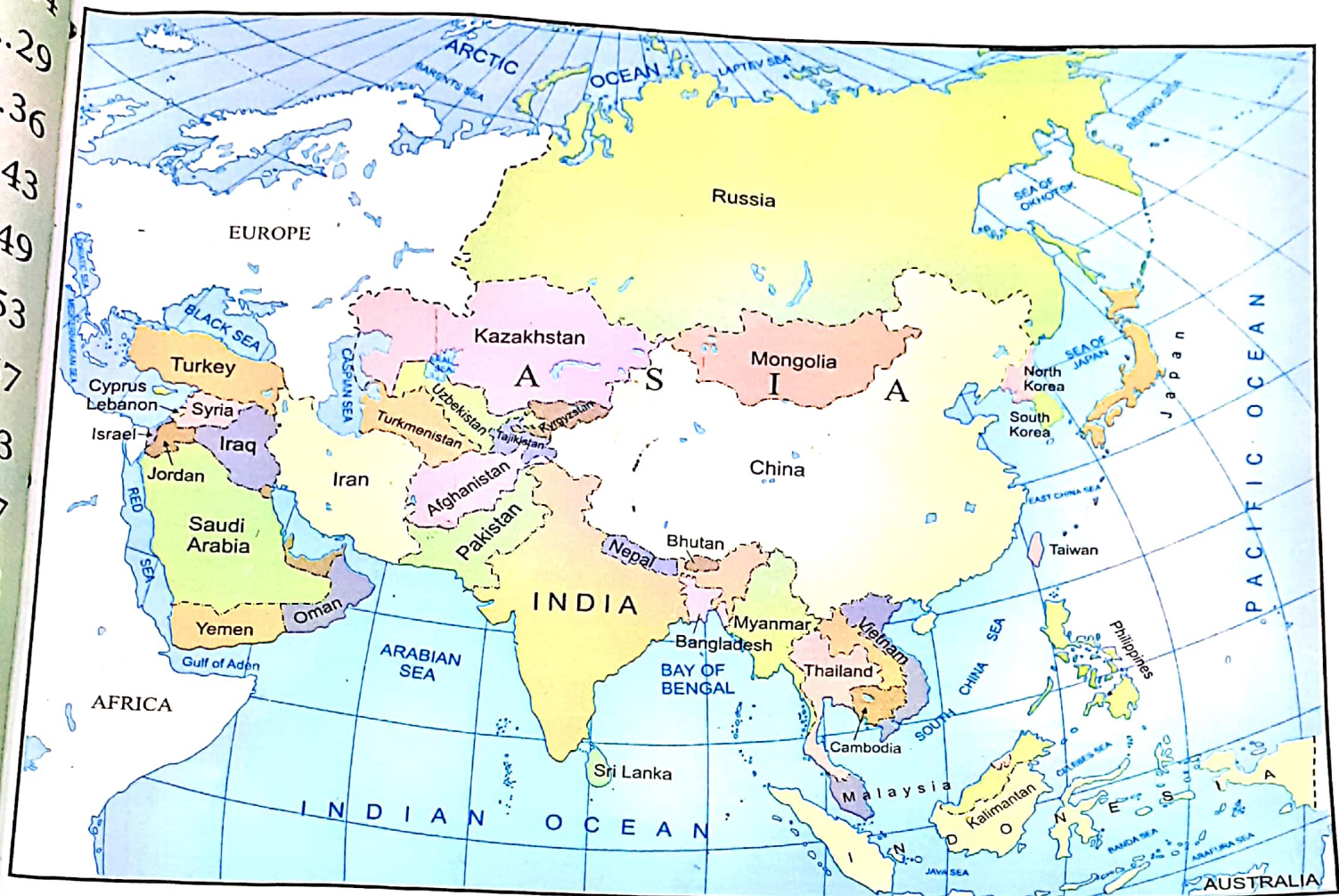


1 India – The Heavenly Land



Map Not to Scale

India is a large country located in southern Asia. The heavenly landscapes, mountains, majestic rivers and other physical features make India one of the most beautiful countries in the world. In this unit, we will study about the physical features and climate of our country, India.

India is the seventh largest country in the world. It is the second largest country in terms of population. The length of India is 3,214 km from north to south and 2,933 km from east to west.

The southern part of India is a peninsula. We already know that a peninsula is an area of land that is surrounded by water on three sides. The Indian peninsula has the Bay of Bengal in the East, the Arabian Sea in the West and the Indian Ocean in the South.

The land frontier of India is about 15,200 km in length. Huge mountain ranges protect India in the North. The total length of Indian coastline is nearly 7,500 km. The countries that share a common land boundary with India are : Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Sri Lanka and Maldives are neighbours across the sea.



Political Divisions of India—States and Union Territories

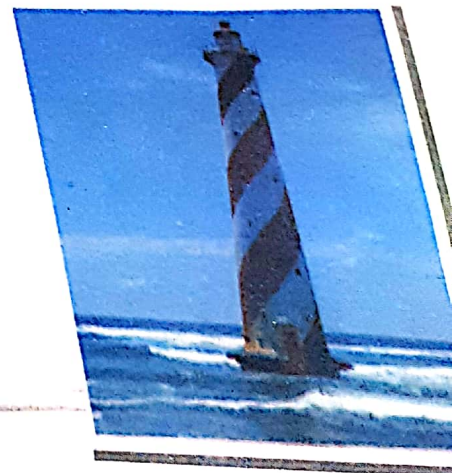
States and Union Territories

India became independent on 15th August, 1947. Now there are 29 States and 7 Union Territories in our country, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

State	Capital	State	Capital
1. Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	20. Odisha	Bhubaneswar
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	21. Punjab	Chandigarh
3. Assam	Dispur	22. Rajasthan	Jaipur
4. Bihar	Patna	23. Sikkim	Gangtok
5. Chhattisgarh	Raipur	24. Tamil Nadu	Chennai
6. Goa	Panaji	25. Telangana	Hyderabad
7. Gujarat	Gandhinagar	26. Tripura	Agartala
8. Haryana	Chandigarh	27. Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
9. Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	28. Uttarakhand	Dehradun
10. Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	29. West Bengal	Kolkata
11. Jharkhand	Ranchi	Union Territory Capital	
12. Karnataka	Bengaluru	1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
13. Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	2. Chandigarh	Chandigarh
14. Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Silvassa
15. Maharashtra	Mumbai	4. Daman & Diu	Daman
16. Manipur	Imphal	5. Lakshadweep	Kavaratti
17. Meghalaya	Shillong	6. Puducherry	Puducherry
18. Mizoram	Aizawl	7. National Capital Territory of Delhi	New Delhi
19. Nagaland	Kohima		

The southernmost tip of the mainland of India is **Kanyakumari**. But, the southernmost tip of our country is **Indira Point** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The largest state in India is Rajasthan and the smallest state is Goa. The seven states in the North-east, popularly known as the **Seven Sisters** are Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.



Indira Point

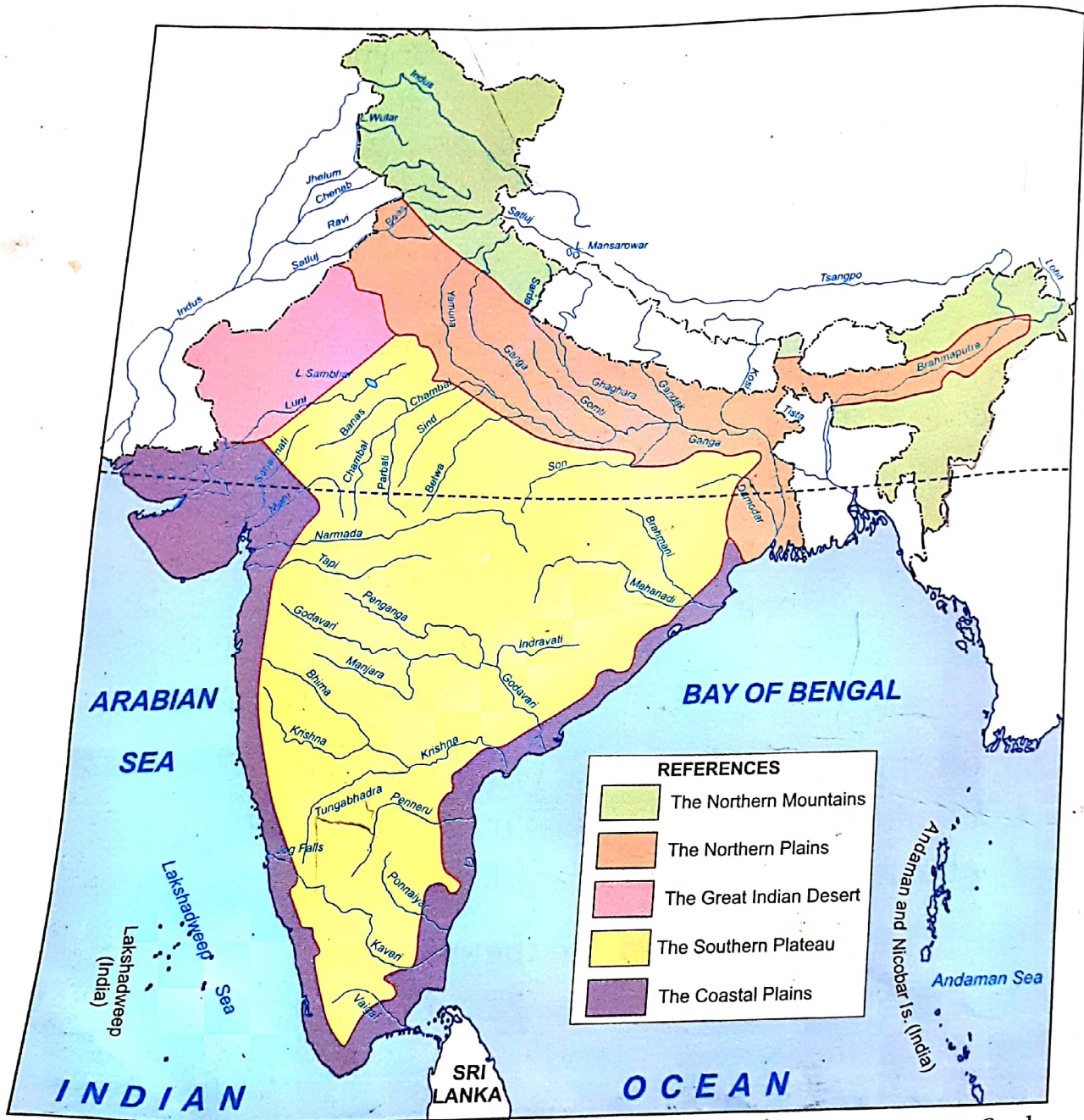
Physical Features: The land features of India vary from place to place. There are mountains, very big plains as well as plateaus in India. Many rivers flow through plains of India.

India is classified into the following physical divisions.

1. The Northern Mountains
2. The Northern Plains
3. The Western Desert
4. The Southern Plateau
5. The Coastal Plains and Islands

Did you know

The only country in the world to have an ocean in its name is India. This ocean is known as the Indian ocean.



Map Not to Scale

Physical Division of India



Glossary

- Peninsula** – Land surrounded by water on three sides.
Plateau – Raised and flat land.



Quick Glance

- India has 29 States and 7 Union Territories.
- India's neighbours across the sea are Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- India is located in the southern Asia and is the seventh largest country in the world.
- The seven states in the northeast are popularly known as the Seven Sisters.



Question Bag

Brain Game:

Guess my name?

- I am the smallest state of India.
- I am the southernmost tip of India.
- I am celebrated on 15th August, 1947.
- I am the largest state of India.
- I am a land surrounded by water on three sides.

Goa
India's point
Independence day
Rajasthan
Peninsula

Multiple Choice Questions:

- The seventh largest country in the world:
 (a) China ☐ (b) Australia ☐
- The largest state of India:
 (a) Punjab ☐ (b) Rajasthan ☐
- The smallest state of India:
 (a) Goa ☐ (b) Kerala ☒
- India achieved independence on:
 (a) 26th January ☐ (b) 15th August ☐

☐ (c) India ☒

☒ (c) Haryana ☐

☐ (c) Bihar ☐

☒ (c) 2nd October ☐

C. Take clues from the box and fill in the blanks:

New Delhi 29 Chennai Indira Point 7

1. India has 29 States and 7 Union Territories.
2. Indira point is the southernmost tip of India.
3. Chennai is the capital of Tamil Nadu.
4. New Delhi is the capital of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

D. Answer the following questions.

1. What is a peninsula?

2. What is the name given to the Seven States in northeast India?

3. Name the countries that share their boundaries with India.



Given below are the boundary lines of four States. Write their names on the blank lines.

