BYJU'S EXAM PREP

India and the Administrative Units; the States and Union Territories

The administrative unit is a portion of a country or the region delineated for the purpose of administration and to administer a region, it is essential to know about the geography and the territorial boundaries of that region. The administrative divisions of India are subnational administrative units of India. They are made in a hierarchical manner of a country's subdivisions.

To know about the administrative units better, let us have a glance at the geographical aspects of India in brief.

a. Physiography of India

- India lies on the **Indian Plate**, which is the northern part of the **Indo-Australian Plate**. The **continental crust** of the Indo-Australian Plate forms the **Indian subcontinent.**
- India lies in the **northern hemisphere of the globe** between **8º 4' N and 37º6' N latitudes** and **68º7' E and 97º25' E longitudes**.
- The southern extent goes up to **6º45' N latitude** to cover the last island of the Nicobar group of islands. The southern extreme is called **Pygmalion Point or India Point**.
- The **Tropic of Cancer** passes through the **middle part of India** and crosses the **eight** states of **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.**
- The total **land frontier of 15,200 km** passes through **marshy lands, desert, plains, mountains, snow-covered areas** and **thick forests.**
- The **maritime boundary of 6100 km** along the main landmass which increases to **7516 km of the coastlines of Andaman-Nicobar** and **Lakshadweep Islands** are added to it.
- India commands a **total geographical area of 32,87,263 sq.km** which is roughly **0.57% of the area of the earth** and **2.4% of the total area of the land hemisphere**.
- **India** is the **seventh-largest country** in the world after **Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brazil** and **Australia** (all are mentioned in the descending order).
- **India's area** is **almost equal** to the area of **Europe (excluding Russia), one-third of Canada, one-fifth of Russia, eight times of Japan and twelve times of the United Kingdom.**
- **India** has roughly a **quadrangular shape.** It measures about **3,214 km from north to south** and about **2933 km from east to west, the** difference between the two is just **281km.**

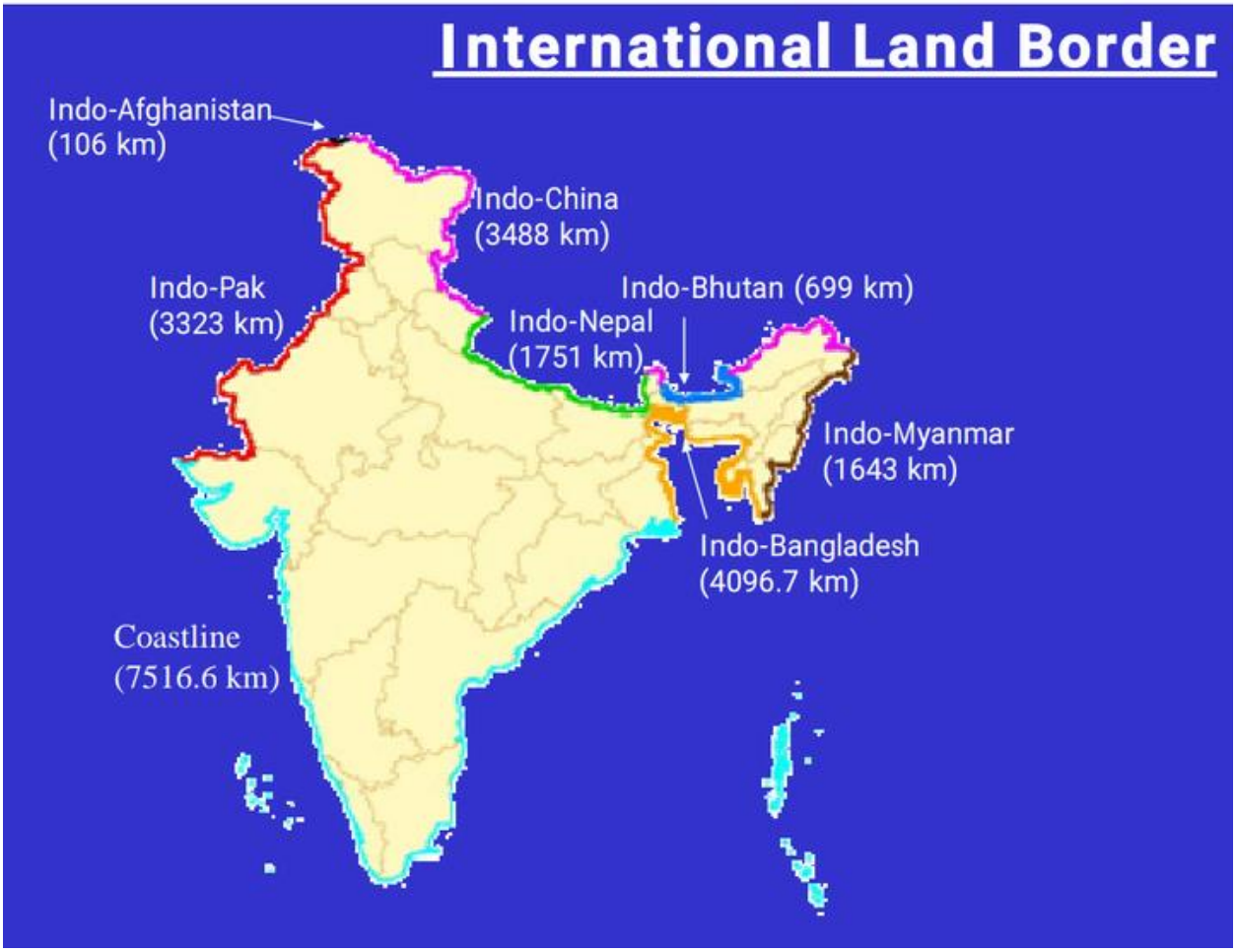
BYJU'S EXAM PREP

b. Land frontiers of India

As mentioned earlier, the total land frontier is 15, 200 km passes through marshy lands, desert, plains, rugged mountains, snow-covered areas, and thick forests. The land frontier is provided by the high Himalayan Mountains, which are the world's most elevated ranges.

- The Himalayan ranges from a natural frontier between India and China. In the north-west, Jammu and Kashmir share the international border with Sinkiang and Tibet in China.
- In the east, Himachal Pradesh and the mountain region of Uttarakhand have a common frontier with Tibet.
- Nepal has its border with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- West Bengal and Sikkim also touch the Nepalese border for a small distance.
- India-Afghanistan and Pakistan-Afghanistan international boundary are called the **Durand Line**, determined as a 'military-strategic border' between British **India and Afghanistan**.
- The boundary between **Pakistan and Bangladesh (East Pakistan)** was finalized at the time of **partition in 1947** through the **'Radcliff Award'.**
- In Punjab, the frontier runs through a smooth and fertile plain, which is purely man-made. The Indian frontier with Pakistan in Kashmir is still disputed and has led to strained relations between the two countries since partition in 1947.
- The eastern boundary of India is formed by a complex chain of the Himalayan offshoots consisting of the **Mishmi, the Patkai, the Naga hills, the Barail range, the Mizo hills** and finally the Arakan Yoma mountain range.
- The **Arakan Yoma** is submerged in the Bay of Bengal for a sufficiently long stretch and emerges again in the form of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The boundary line between India and Bangladesh crisscrosses the vast **Ganga-Brahmaputra delta**. This boundary runs through an entirely flat country in which there is not even a small mount or hill which could be used for demarcating the boundary between two countries.
- Bangladesh and India share the **fifth-longest land border in the world**, including **Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and West Bengal**.
- There is a maritime boundary of 6100 km along with the main landmass which increases to 7156 km if the coastlines of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are added to it.
- The nearest neighbour in the south across the seas is **Sri Lanka** which is separated from India through the **narrow channel of Palk Strait**.
- Similarly, **Eight Degree Channel** forms the boundary between the **Lakshadweep and Maldives islands**.

BYJU'S EXAM PREP



As seen earlier, India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories. The data shared in the table is as per the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India.

Name of the Country	**Length in Km**
Bangladesh	4,096.7
China	3,488
Pakistan	3,323
Nepal	1,751
Myanmar	1,643
Bhutan	699
Afghanistan	106
Total	**15,106.7**

The states having a common boundary with the neighbouring countries.

Country	States
Pakistan	**4 States**: Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat
Afghanistan	**1 State**: Jammu and Kashmir
China	**5 States**: Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh
Nepal	**5 States**: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim
Bhutan	**4 States**: Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
Myanmar	**4 States**: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram
Bangladesh	**5 States**: West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram

Quick Glance at States Area-wise:

State	Area (Km^2)	Capital	Main Language
Rajasthan	342,239	Jaipur	Rajasthani, Hindi
Madhya Pradesh	308,245	Bhopal	Hindi
Maharashtra	307,713	Mumbai	Marathi
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	Lucknow	Hindi
Gujarat	196,024	Gandhinagar	Gujarati
Karnataka	191,791	Bengaluru	Kannada
Andhra Pradesh	162,968	Hyderabad	Telugu
Odisha	155,707	Bhuvaneswar	Oriyya
Chhattisgarh	135,191	Raipur	Hindi

Tamil Nadu	130,058	Chennai	Tamil
Telangana	112,077	Hyderabad	Telugu
Bihar	94,163	Patna	Hindi
West Bengal	88,752	Kolkata	Bengali
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	Itanagar	Tribal
Jharkhand	79,714	Ranchi	Hindi
Assam	78,438	Dispur	Assamese
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	Shimla	Hindi
Uttarakhand	53,483	Dehradun	Hindi
Punjab	50,362	Chandigarh	Punjabi
Haryana	44,212	Chandigarh	Hindi
Kerala	38,863	Thiruvananthapuram	Malayalam
Meghalaya	22,429	Shillong	Khasi, Garo, English
Manipur	22,327	Imphal	Manipuri
Mizoram	21,081	Aizawl	Mizo, English
Nagaland	16,579	Kohima	Angami Ao
Tripura	10,486	Bengali, Tripuri	Agartala
Sikkim	7,096	Gangtok	Lepcha, Bhutia
Goa	3,702	Panaji	Marathi, Konkani
Union Territories	**Area (sq. km)**	**Capital**	**Language**
Andaman and Nicobar Is.	8,249	Port Blair	Andamanese, Nicobarese
Delhi	1,490	New Delhi	Hindi
Puducherry	492	Puducherry	Tamil, French

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	603	Daman	Gujarati, Marathi
Chandigarh	114	Chandigarh is itself the capital of two states i.e. **Punjab** and **Haryana**.	Hindi, Punjabi, and Haryanvi
Lakshadweep	32	Kavaratti	Malayalam
Jammu Kashmir	-	Srinagar (Summer capital) Jammu (winter capital)	Kashmiri, Urdu
Ladakh	-	Leh, Kargil	Urdu, Hindi, English