



CRPF

Constable Tradesman

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

Volume - 2

General Knowledge



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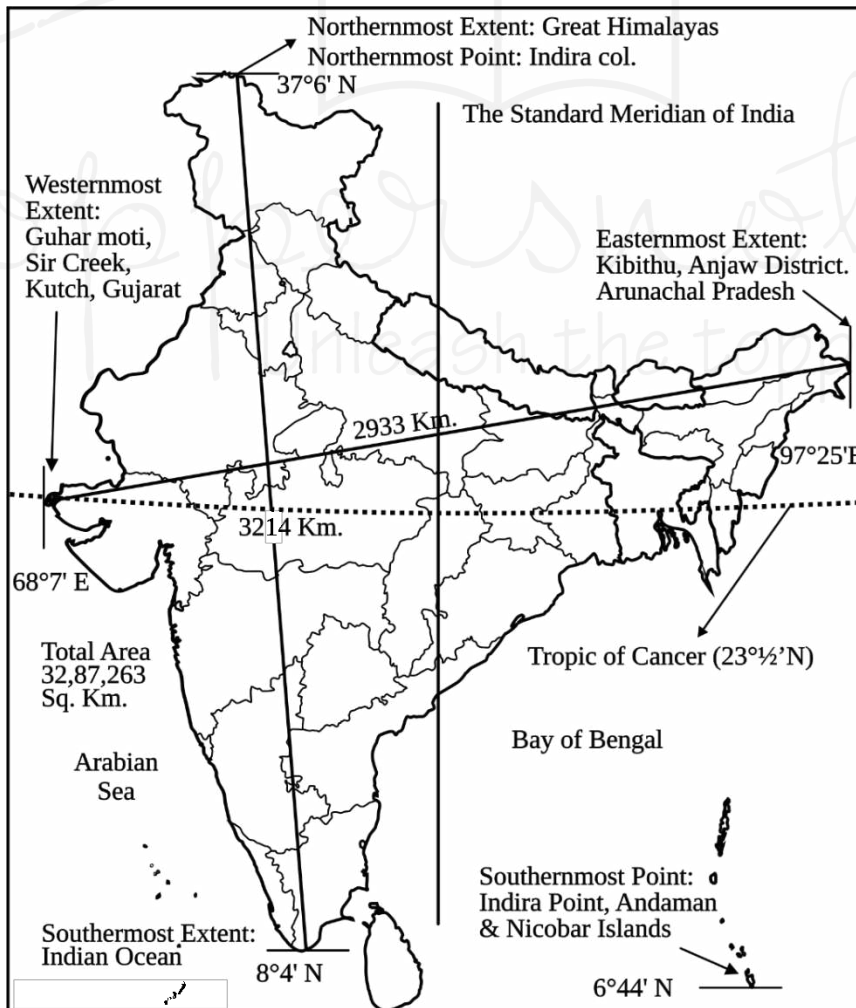
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CHAPTER

Indian Geography

INDIA - AT A GLANCE

| Aspect | Details |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Latitudinal Extent | 8°4' N to 37°6' N |
| Longitudinal Extent | 68°7' E to 97°25' E |
| Northernmost Point | Indira Col, Ladakh |
| Southernmost Point | Indira Point, Great Nicobar Island |
| Easternmost Point | Kibithu/Valang, Arunachal Pradesh |
| Westernmost Point | Gaurmukh, Gujarat |
| Area | 3,287,263 sq km |
| World Ranking by Area | 7th largest country |
| Percentage of World Area | 2.4% |
| Countries Larger than India by Area | Russia, Canada, China, USA, Brazil, Australia |
| Latitudinal Distance (North–South) | 3,214 km |
| Longitudinal Distance (East–West) | 2,933 km |
| Population Ranking | Largest in the world |



Coastline of India:

- On 29th April 2025, the Government of India recalculated the country's coastline. Including islands, the total coastline length is **11,098 km**. The coastline touches **9 states** and **66 districts**.
- **Western Coast States:** Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala
- **Eastern Coast States:** Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal
- **State-wise Highlights:**
 - ✓ **Longest coastline:** Gujarat (2,340 km)
 - ✓ **Shortest coastline:** Goa (193 km)
 - ✓ On the eastern coast, the **longest coastline** is Tamil Nadu (1,068 km)
- **Maritime Zones (as per International Maritime Organization):**
 - ✓ Territorial Sea
 - ✓ Contiguous Zone
 - ✓ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- **Tropic of Cancer in India:**

- ✓ The Tropic of Cancer is located at **23°N latitude**, north of the Equator.
- ✓ It passes through **8 Indian states:** Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- ✓ The **Mahi River** crosses the Tropic of Cancer **twice**.

Standard Time

- The **Standard Time** in India is based on the **82.5° East longitude**, which is the **central meridian** passing through **Naini (Mirzapur), Uttar Pradesh**.
- India's standard time is **5 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)**, meaning when it is **12:00 noon in England, it is 5:30 PM in India**.
- The **standard meridian** passes through **five states:** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.

Bordering Countries

| Country | Capital | Border Length with India | Bordering Indian States / Remarks |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Afghanistan | Kabul | 106 km | Ladakh (via Wakhan Corridor / PoK region) |
| Bangladesh | Dhaka | 4096.7 km | West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram |
| Bhutan | Thimphu | 699 km | West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh |
| China | Beijing | 3488 km | Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh |
| Myanmar | Naypyidaw | 1643 km | Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram |
| Nepal | Kathmandu | 1751 km | Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim |
| Pakistan | Islamabad | 3323 km | Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat |
| Sri Lanka | Colombo (Commercial), Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (Legislative) | Sea Border | Separated from India by the Gulf of Mannar |
| Maldives | Malé | Sea Border | Located southwest of India in the Indian Ocean , below Lakshadweep Islands |

International Boundaries

Adjacent to India:

- **Radcliffe Line** – Between India and Pakistan
- **24th Parallel** – Between India and Pakistan
- **McMahon Line** – Between India and China

- **LAC (Line of Actual Control)** – Between India and China
- **Durand Line** – Between Afghanistan and Pakistan
- **Johnson Line (1865) & MacDonald Line (1893)** – Between China and India (Ladakh); currently considered illegal by China

International Disputed Areas

Involving India:

- **Galwan Valley** – India and China
- **Siachen Dispute** – India and Pakistan
- **Katchatheevu Island** – India and Sri Lanka
- **Kalapani Dispute** – India and Nepal
- **Susta Area Dispute** – India and Nepal

Administrative Status

- **Administrative Structure:** India currently comprises **28 states** and **8 Union Territories**.
- **Districts:** In 2011, India had a total of **640 districts**, which increased to **780 districts** by 2025 (as of October 2025).

- **Villages:** In 2011, India had approximately **640,000 villages**.

Political Structure:

- **Lok Sabha Seats:** Maximum 550; currently 543.
- **Rajya Sabha Seats:** Maximum 250; currently 245.
- **Legislative Councils:** Present in six states: Uttar Pradesh (100), Maharashtra (78), Bihar (75), Karnataka (75), Andhra Pradesh (58) and Telangana (40)

India's Physical Landscape

Major Himalayan Ranges of India

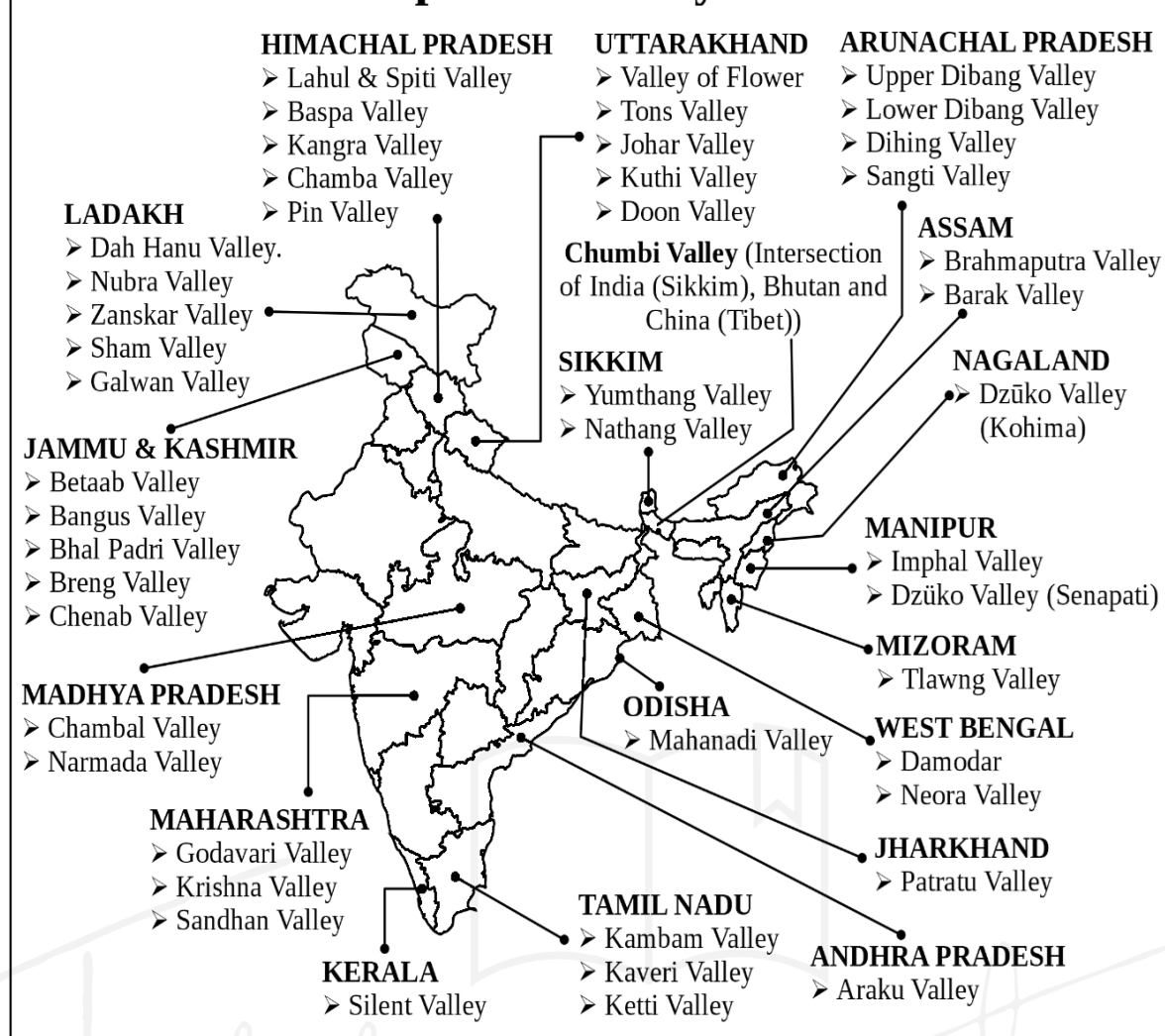
| Mountain Range | Location / Extent | Key Notes (Description) | Highest Mountain Peak |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Karakoram Range | Ladakh (India), China, Pakistan | One of the world's most rugged mountain systems; contains the greatest concentration of glaciers outside the polar regions (e.g., Siachen Glacier). | K2 (Mount Godwin-Austen) – 8,611 m |
| Ladakh Range | Ladakh (UT) | Lies between the Indus River and the Karakoram Range; cold desert climate; parallel to the Zaskar Range. | Lunpo Gangri – ~7,095m |
| Zaskar Range | Ladakh & Himachal Pradesh | Eastern extension of the Greater Himalayas; acts as a climatic barrier; Zaskar River cuts through it forming deep gorges. | Kamet Peak – ~7,756 m |
| Shivalik (Siwalik) Range | Outer Himalayas (Punjab to Assam foothills) | Youngest, lowest & outermost Himalayan range; composed of unconsolidated sediments; prone to erosion and landslides. | Churdhar Peak – 3,647 m |
| Pir Panjal Range | Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh | Largest range of the Lesser Himalayas; separates Kashmir Valley from Himachal Pradesh; famous for passes like Banihal. | Indrasan – 6,221 m |
| Dhauladhar Range | Himachal Pradesh | Southern branch of the Lesser Himalayas; rises sharply from Kangra Valley; known for steep slopes and snow peaks. | Hanuman Tibba – 5,860 m |

Important valleys of India

- **Western Ghats' highest peak** - Anamudi (2695 m), Kerala
- **Eastern Ghats' highest peak** - Jindagarh (1690 m), Andhra Pradesh
- **Western Ghats' highest peak** - Anamudi (2695 m), Kerala

- **Eastern Ghats' highest peak** - Jindagarh (1690 m), Andhra Pradesh
- **Andaman and Nicobar's highest peak** - Saddle Peak (732 m), North Andaman
- **Bihar's highest peak** - Someshwar (874 m)
- **Chhattisgarh's highest peak** - Gaurkata (Samripat, 1225 m)
- **Jharkhand's highest peak** - Parasnath (Giridih district)

Important Valleys Of India



Prominent Himalayan Glaciers

| Glacier Name | Location | Important Features |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Siachen | Karakoram ranges | Nubra Valley of Himalayas; 2nd longest glacier outside Polar region largest glacier of trans-Himalayas |
| Biafo | Karakoram | Flows into the Shigar River |
| Gangotri | Uttarakhand | Origin below Chaukhamba Peak; also known as 'Gomukh' |
| Hispar | Gilgit-Baltistan | World's longest glacial system |
| Zemu | Sikkim/Nepal | Largest glacier of Eastern Himalaya; feeds River Teesta |
| Sonapani | Lahaul & Spiti, HP | Longest glacier in the Pir Panjal range. A glacier stream is a tributary to the Chandra River, which later merges with the Bhaga River to form the Chenab. |
| Milam | Uttarakhand | Major source of River Gori Ganga (Saryu); biggest glacier in Kumaon Himalaya |
| Chong Kumdan | Karakoram, Ladakh | Feeds Shyok River due to potential blocking |
| Diamir | POK | Known as the 'King of Mountains' |
| Rupal | Kashmir | In Greater Himalayas; flows north eastward |
| Bhillans, Thajivas, and Prui | Jammu and Kashmir | |

Prominent Himalayan Passes

| Pass Name | State / UT | Location / Border | Importance |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Zoji La | Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh | Greater Himalayas | Connects Srinagar–Kargil & Leh; Lying in the middle of India and China |
| Banihal Pass | Jammu & Kashmir | Pir Panjal Range | Jawahar Tunnel passes beneath it ; Srinagar–Jammu route ; a pass connecting the rest of India to Kashmir . |
| Khardung La | Ladakh | Ladakh Range | Road to Siachen; one of highest motorable roads |
| Chang La | Ladakh | Ladakh Range | Connects Leh to Pangong Lake |
| Fotu La | Ladakh | Zaskar Range | Highest point on Srinagar–Leh highway |
| Namika La | Ladakh | Zaskar Range | On Kargil–Leh route |
| Baralacha La | Himachal Pradesh | Zaskar Range | On Leh–Manali highway |
| Shipki La | Himachal Pradesh | India–Tibet Border (Kinnaur) | Historic silk route for trade. |
| Mana Pass | Uttarakhand | Chamoli District | Road to Kailash–Mansarovar; Indo-China route |
| Niti Pass | Uttarakhand | Chamoli District | Old trade route to Tibet |
| Lipulekh Pass | Uttarakhand | Pithoragarh District | Kailash–Mansarovar Yatra route; India–Nepal–Tibet tri-junction |
| Muling La | Uttarakhand | | connects Uttarakhand and Tibet and is situated in the north of Gangotri. |
| Nathu La | Sikkim | Indo–China Border | A border trade post with China; one of the highest motorable roads in the world connects Sikkim with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. |
| Jelep La | Sikkim | Near Kalimpong | Trade route to Lhasa in historical times |
| Sella Pass | Arunachal Pradesh | Tawang District | Connects Tawang to rest of state; Sella tunnel world’s Longest twin lane tunnel above 13000 feet altitude. |
| Bum La | Arunachal Pradesh | Near Tawang | Indo–China sensitive military pass |
| Dipher Pass | Arunachal Pradesh | East Kameng | Eastern Himalayas, remote and strategic |
| Khunjerab Pass | (POK) | Gilgit–Baltistan (Pak-Occupied Kashmir) | On China–Pakistan border; on CPEC route |
| Lanak La | Ladakh (Disputed Border) | Aksai Chin region (Indo-China) | Disputed India–China border crossing |

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Lekhapani | Arunachal Pradesh | Eastern tip near Assam-Arunachal | Historic WW-II route via Stilwell Road; strategic for eastern sector |
| Rohtang Pass | Himachal Pradesh | Pir Panjal Range | Connects Kullu Valley to Lahaul and Spiti valleys ; separates Chenab and Beas basins a famous tourist attraction site |
| Debsa Pass | Himachal Pradesh | - | Located between Kullu and Spiti districts |
| Dihang Pass | Arunachal Pradesh | - | Connects Arunachal Pradesh to Myanmar Beyond this pass, the Himalayas bend sharply to the south and spread along the eastern boundary of India. |
| Khyber Pass | Pakistan–Afghanistan | | Connects Peshawar (Pakistan) to Jalalabad (Afghanistan) ; part of the ancient Silk Road trade network |
| Muling La Pass & Mangsha Dhura Pass | Uttarakhand | Greater Himalayas | Connects Uttarakhand to Tibet |

Geographical Division of Plains

| Geographical Type | Location/Extent | Characteristics / Special Features |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Bhabar Plains | From Punjab to Assam; located south of the Shivalik hills (foothill region) | Small rivers disappear underground in these plains. |
| Terai Plains | South of the Bhabar plains; marshy area | Rivers flow on the surface instead of going underground. |
| Bangar Plains | Doab regions situated between two rivers | Composed of gravel, stones, sand, and clay; formed by older alluvium. Also called Bhud, Reh, Dhaya, or Bet in some regions. |
| Khadar Plains | Formed by new alluvial soil | Highly fertile; located in flood-prone areas; formed by recent alluvium. |

Doab Area

| Doab Name | Rivers It Lies Between |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sind Sagar Doab | Indus & Jhelum |
| Jech Doab | Jhelum & Chenab |
| Rachna Doab | Ravi & Chenab |
| Bari Doab | Beas & Ravi |
| Bist Doab | Beas & Sutlej |

Plateau

| Plateau | Location | Special Features / Notes | Major Rivers / Highlights |
|------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Central India Plateau | Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh | Known as the "Basket of Mustard" of Central India | Parvati, Chambal, Banas, Kuno, Seep |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Malwa Plateau | Madhya Pradesh | Located between Aravalli and Vindhya ranges; famous for soybean production; rich in black soil; Chinese traveler Faxian called its climate one of the best in the world | – |
| Bundelkhand Plateau | Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh | Panna district produces the most diamonds in India; famous tourist sites include Khajuraho, Orchha, Chanderi, and Devgarh | – |
| Baghelkhand Plateau | Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh | Red-yellow soil predominates; major rice-producing region; highest concentration of sal trees in India | – |
| Chota Nagpur Plateau | Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal | Rich in minerals; known as the "Ruhr of India"; largest mineral production in India | – |
| Kathiawar Plateau | Gujarat | Region has black soil; famous for peanut and cotton cultivation | – |
| Deccan Plateau | Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka | Largest plateau in India; Kalsubai is its highest peak; formed by volcanic activity and basalt rocks | – |
| Dandakaranya Plateau | Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh | Famous for rice cultivation; one of the most Naxal-affected regions | Mahanadi, Tel, Ong |
| Rayalaseema Plateau | Andhra Pradesh, Telangana | Red-yellow soil predominates; famous for tobacco and maize cultivation | – |

Important Facts

- Natarhat in Jharkhand is known as the "Queen of Chotanagpur Plateau."
- The highest peak of the Chotanagpur Plateau is Parasnath Hill.
- The Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, India, is located on Raisina Hill.

Indian Coast

West Coast (Western Coastal Plains)

| Coastal Plain | Location / Extent | Special Features / Notes |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Kathiawar Coast | Gujarat to Daman | Major ports: Pandit Deendayal (Kandla), Dahej, Mundra. |
| Konkan Coast | Daman to Goa | Major ports: Mumbai, Nhava Sheva (Jawaharlal Nehru). |
| Canara Coast | Goa to New Mangalore | Also called the Kannada Coast. Major ports: New Mangalore, Marmagao (Vasco da Gama). |
| Malabar Coast | New Mangalore to Kanyakumari | Major port: Kochi (Spice Port). Minerals: sand, thorium, monazite. |

East Coast (Eastern Coastal Plains)

| Coastal Plain | Location / Extent | Special Features / Notes |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Northern Circars Coast | West Bengal to Mahanadi Delta | Major ports: Haldia, Kolkata. |
| Utkal Coast | Mahanadi to Krishna Delta | Major port: Paradip (Odisha). |
| Golconda Coast | Krishna River to Cauvery River | Major port: Vishakhapatnam (India's deepest port). |
| Coromandel Coast | Cauvery River to Kanyakumari | Highest rainfall due to retreating monsoon (Nov–Dec). Rice cultivation in Nov–Dec. |

Major Island Groups of India

- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Bay of Bengal):**
 - ✓ Volcanic islands known for pristine beaches, coral reefs, and rich biodiversity (Havelock, Neil, Ross).
 - ✓ The Great Nicobar Island is the largest island in India
 - ✓ 22 islands in Nicobar.
 - ✓ It is believed that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are an elevated portion of submarine mountains.
- **Lakshadweep Islands (Arabian Sea):**
 - ✓ Coral atolls famous for lagoons, marine life, and water sports.

Arabian Sea Islands

| Island / Island Group | Location | Features / Special Notes |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Aliya Wet | Gulf of Khambhat | Formed between the mouths of the Narmada and Tapi rivers; famous for petroleum production. |
| Khadiya Wet | Gulf of Khambhat | Island formed by the Narmada and Tapi rivers. |
| Piram Wet | Gulf of Khambhat | Located in Bhavnagar district; famous for salt production. |
| Bombay High | Maharashtra (near Mumbai) | India's largest petroleum source, located near Mumbai. |
| Basin Island | Maharashtra | A small petroleum source. |
| Elephanta Island | Maharashtra | Famous for the Elephanta Caves located on this island. |
| Jawahar Island | Maharashtra | Also known as Butcher Island. |
| Salsette Island | Maharashtra | Home to the major city of Thane. |
| Chorão Island | Goa | Location of the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary. |
| Willingdon Island | Kerala | Located in Vembanad Lake, Kerala. |
| Lakshadweep Islands | Arabian Sea | Coral-built atoll islands consisting of 36 small islands. |

Bay of Bengal Islands

| Island Name | Location | Notes / Significance |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| New Moore Island | Bay of Bengal | Disputed between India and Bangladesh since 1981. |
| Kalash Island | Bay of Bengal | Famous island within Sundarbans National Park. |
| Ganga Sagar Island | West Bengal | Located at the mouth of the Hooghly River; also known as Sagar Island. |
| Abdul Kalam Island | Odisha | India's missile launching center; formerly called Wheeler Island. Nearby are two smaller islands: Chandipur and Balasore. |
| Sriharikota Island | Andhra Pradesh | Houses the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. |
| Pamban Island | Tamil Nadu | Located in the Gulf of Mannar. |
| Barren Island | Eastern Andaman | India's only active volcano. Last eruption occurred on 5 November 2020. |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands | Bay of Bengal | India's largest island group. |
| Shaheed Dweep | Andaman & Nicobar | Formerly called Neil Island. |
| Subhash Chandra Bose Island | Andaman & Nicobar | Formerly called Ross Island. |
| Swaraj Dweep | Andaman & Nicobar | Formerly called Havelock Island. |

River Islands

| Island Name | River | Notable Facts / Description | Location / State |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Majuli Island | Brahmaputra | World's largest river island; declared India's first river island district in 2017 | Assam |
| Umanand Island | Brahmaputra | Famous for the Golden Langur | Assam |
| Srirangapatnam Island | Kaveri | Located on an island in Tamil Nadu | Tamil Nadu |
| Mandhata Island | Narmada | Historical/Geographical significance | Khargone/Khandeva, Madhya Pradesh |

Rivers and Water Resources of India

Important River of India

| Rivers | Description |
|-------------------------|--|
| Indus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Near Mount Kailash in Tibet (China) ➤ Major Tributaries: Jhelum River, Chenab River, Ravi River, Beas River, Sutlej (Satluj) River, etc. ➤ Course: Enters India through Ladakh (UT of Ladakh) and flows northwest into Pakistan and finally drains into the Arabian Sea. ➤ According to the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, the eastern rivers of the water system - Sutlej, Ravi and Chenab were to be with India ➤ North to South Sequence: Indus, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Satluj |
| Ganga | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Gangotri Glacier near Gaumukh in Uttarakhand. ➤ Total length: 2,525 km (longest river in India). ➤ Empties into the Bay of Bengal through the Sunderbans Delta ➤ Major Tributaries: Yamuna, Son, Kosi, Ghaghara etc. ➤ Distributary: Bhagirathi-Hooghly (formed at Farakka) ➤ At Devprayag the Bhagirathi is Joined by Alaknanda. |
| Yamuna (1375 km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Source: Yamunotri Glacier in Uttarakhand. ➤ Role: Westernmost & longest tributary of the Ganga, joining it at Prayag (Allahabad). ➤ Right-bank tributaries: Chambal, Sind, Betwa (480 km), Ken. ➤ Left-bank tributaries: Hindan, Rind, Senger, Varuna, Tons (Longest tributary, its tributaries- Pabbar, Asan) |
| Son(780km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Amarkantak Plateau in Madhya Pradesh. ➤ Note: Large south bank tributary of the Ganga. |
| Chambal (1050km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Source: Near Mhow, Madhya Pradesh. ➤ Confluence: Joins Yamuna. ➤ Feature: Famous for ravines and badland topography. ➤ Tributaries: Banas, Kali Sindh, Parvati ➤ Border of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan |
| Kosi(730km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Type: Antecedent river. ➤ Source: Arun River from Everest region, merging to form Saptakoshi in Nepal. ➤ Nickname: "Sorrow of Bihar" due to flooding. ➤ Plain Elevation: 30 metres above sea level. |
| Narmada (1312km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Amarkantak Plateau ➤ Flow: Flows through fault valleys between the Satpura and Vindhya ranges; forms the boundary between North and South India ➤ Feature: Dhuandhar Waterfall; formation of an estuary ➤ Tributaries: Tawa, Sher, Shakkar |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Tapti | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Multai, fault valley of the Satpura Range (Betul, Madhya Pradesh) ➤ Flow: Passes through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat ➤ Feature: Flows parallel to the Narmada; about 80% of its basin lies in Maharashtra ➤ Tributaries: Waghur, Aner, Girna, Purna, Panzara and Bori. |
| Brahmaputra | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Chemayungdung Glacier, near Mount Kailash (Northern Himalayas) ➤ Total length: ~2,900 km (one of the longest rivers of Asia). ➤ Finally drains into the Bay of Bengal, forming the Ganga–Brahmaputra–Meghna Delta. ➤ Major Tributaries: Subansiri, Manas, Sankosh, Dihang, Lohit, Burhi dihing etc. ➤ It has the least storage capacity of usable water. |
| Mahanadi (858km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin → Sihawa range, Chhattisgarh ➤ States → Chhattisgarh, Odisha (The largest river here) ➤ Tributaries → Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand, Ib, Ong, Tel, Jonk |
| Godavari (1465km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin → Kasu bai hill, Nashik (MH - About 50 percent of the basin area is in this state, longest peninsular river. ➤ Tributaries → Pranhita, Indravati, Penganga, Manjra ➤ Peninsular India's longest river, the Old Ganga or Ganga of the South, the country's second largest basin. |
| Krishna (1400km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Mahabaleshwar, located in the Sahyadri Range (Maharashtra) ➤ Tributaries: Bhima, Tungabhadra, Koyna, Munsri, Malaprabha, Panchganga, Dudhaganga, Ghataprabha ➤ Feature: It has the largest drainage basin among the peninsular rivers. ➤ Note: The Krishna–Godavari water dispute is between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. |
| Cauvery / Kaveri (805km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Brahmagiri Hills (Karnataka); known as <i>Ponni</i> in Tamil Nadu; the fourth-largest river in South India ➤ States: Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu (The Cauvery water dispute is between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka) ➤ Feature: Shivanasamudra Waterfall (largest in terms of volume); total length – 800 km ➤ Tributaries: Kabini, Bhavani, Amaravati, Hemavati, Shimsha |
| Luni (450km) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origin: Aravalli Range ➤ Feature: Seasonal River; ends in the Rann of Kutch; ➤ major tributaries include Jojari, Sukri, and Jawai |
| Jhelum (725 km) | Origin: Verinag Spring → passes through Wular Lake → Joins chenab In the Vedas – Vitasta |
| Chenab (974 km) | Formed by confluence of Chandra + Bhaga rivers at Tandi (Himachal) → Largest tributary of Indus → Joins Sutlej before finally merging with Indus In the Vedas , it is referred to as Asikni . |
| Ravi (720 km) | Origin: Kullu Hills near Rohtang pass → drains area between Pir Panjal & Dhaola Dhar ranges |
| Beas (470 km) | Origin: Near Rohtang pass → Joins Sutlej River |
| Sutlej (1050km) (Sutudri) | Origin: Rakas's lake (Tibet) → enters Punjab via Shipki La pass → Antecedent River cutting through the Himalayas before uplift |

Fact to Know:

- Nandi river flows through Tiruttani a famous pilgrimage place of South India.
- Berach River, a southern-side tributary of Banas River, originates from the hills in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- The Galwan River is a strategic river in Ladakh, India, flowing from disputed Aksai Chin (controlled by China) to join the Shyok River, an Indus tributary.
- Pindar River is the tributary of Alaknanda.

Lakes In India

| Lake | State/Union Territory | Main Features |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Wular Lake | Jammu and Kashmir | India's largest and Asia's second-largest freshwater natural lake; formed due to tectonic activity; the Jhelum River flows through it. |
| Kodaikanal Lake | Tamil Nadu | Artificial freshwater lake. |
| Dal Lake | Jammu and Kashmir | Famous for houseboats and Shikaras; known as the "Jewel of Srinagar." |
| Pangong Tso | Ladakh | Salt Lake extending into China. |
| Tso Moriri, Tso Kar | Ladakh | High-altitude freshwater lakes. |
| Chilika Lake | Odisha (Mahanadi Delta) | Asia's largest brackish water lake; famous for flamingos; India's first Ramsar site. |
| Kanwar Lake | Bihar | Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake. |
| Chandra Tal Lake | Himachal Pradesh | "Lake of the Moon"; Parashar Lake is also located in Himachal Pradesh. |
| Sasthamkotta Lake | Kerala | "Queen of Lakes"; the largest freshwater lake in Kerala. |
| Loktak Lake | Manipur | The largest freshwater lake in Northeast India; famous for <i>phumdis</i> ; home to the world's only floating national park. |
| Pookode Lake | Kerala | The smallest lake in India. |
| Bhojtal Lake | Madhya Pradesh | Asia's largest artificial lake. |
| Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar (Rihand Dam) | Uttar Pradesh | India's largest artificial lake. |
| Cholamu Lake | Sikkim | The highest-altitude lake in India. |
| Pulicat Lake | Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu | India's second-largest brackish lagoon; shared by two states. |
| Vembanad Lake (Lagoon) | Kerala | The longest lake in India; the largest lake in Kerala. |
| Sambhar Lake | Rajasthan | India's largest inland Salt Lake. |
| Kolleru Lake | Andhra Pradesh | Seasonal freshwater lake located between the Krishna and Godavari rivers. |
| Nainital Lake | Uttarakhand | Crescent-shaped natural freshwater lake. |
| Naukuchia Tal | Nainital, UK | |
| Bhimtal Lake | Uttarakhand | Larger than Nainital Lake. |
| Renuka Lake | Himachal Pradesh | Named after Goddess Renuka. |
| Tsongmo (Changu) Lake | Sikkim | Glacial lake located near the Nathu La Pass. |
| Rudrasagar Lake | Tripura | Wetland designated under the Ramsar Convention. |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Roopkund Lake | Uttarakhand | Glacial lake; known as the “Mystery Lake” due to hundreds of human skeletons found around it. |
| Jaisamand Lake | Rajasthan | Asia’s second-largest artificial freshwater lake; Pichola Lake is another prominent lake in Rajasthan. |
| Gurudongmar Lake | Sikkim | Mountain lake; a sacred pilgrimage site in Buddhism. |
| Keetham Lake | Uttar Pradesh | Also known as <i>Sur Sarovar</i> ; designated as a Ramsar site. |
| Lonar Lake (Crater Lake) | Maharashtra | India’s only lake formed by a meteor impact; the largest crater lake in the world. |
| Hussain Sagar Lake | Telangana | Artificial lake built on the Musi River; connects the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. |
| Bhopal Lake | MP | one of the largest artificial lake of its time was built in 11 th C |

Waterfalls in India

| Waterfall | Location | Description |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Nohkalikai Waterfall | Meghalaya | India’s highest plunge (vertical drop) waterfall. |
| Dudhsagar Waterfall | Goa | Four-tiered waterfall located on the Mandovi River. |
| Jog Waterfall | Karnataka | Situated on the Sharavathi River; also known as Gersoppa Falls. |
| Dhuandhar Waterfall | Madhya Pradesh | World-famous waterfall flowing through marble rocks; falls from the narrow stream of the Narmada River. |
| Rajrappa Waterfall | Jharkhand | Formed at the confluence with the Damodar River; known for its fascinating rock formations. |
| Hundru Waterfall | Jharkhand | Located in Ranchi district; surrounded by varied rock formations. |
| Kempty Waterfall | Uttarakhand | Situated in Tehri Garhwal district. |
| Shivanasamudra Waterfall | Karnataka | Located on the banks of the Cauvery River; the second-largest waterfall in India. |
| Kapildhara Waterfall | Madhya Pradesh | Formed at the confluence of the Kapila and Erandi rivers with the Narmada River. |
| Kunchikal Waterfall | Karnataka | The highest waterfall in India; formed by the Varahi River. |
| Duduma Waterfall | Odisha | Located on the Machkund River. |
| Tirathgarh Waterfall | Chhattisgarh | The highest waterfall in Chhattisgarh, situated on the Kanger River. |
| Chitrakote Waterfall | Chhattisgarh | Known as the “Niagara Falls of India”; located on the Indravati River. |
| Gatha (Gatha Seha Waterfall) | Madhya Pradesh | Fed by the Ken River. |
| Magod Falls | Karnataka | A group of waterfalls where the Bedti River descends. |
| Thalaiyar Falls | Tamil Nadu | The tallest waterfall in Tamil Nadu; also known as Rat Tail Falls. |
| Athirappilly Waterfall | Kerala | The largest waterfall in Kerala. |

Dams & Reservoirs

- A dam is a barrier across flowing water that obstructs, directs or retards the flow, often creating a reservoir, lake or impoundment.

| Name of Dam | State | River | Main Feature |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Nagarjuna Sagar Dam | Andhra Pradesh / Telangana | Krishna | The largest stone–masonry dam in Asia. |
| Srisaïlam Dam | Andhra Pradesh / Telangana | Krishna | Constructed in a deep gorge for hydroelectric power generation. |
| Sardar Sarovar Dam | Gujarat | Narmada | Part of the Narmada Valley Project; multipurpose dam. |
| Ukai Dam | Gujarat | Tapi | The second-largest water project in Gujarat. |
| Bhakra Dam | Himachal Pradesh / Punjab | Sutlej | The highest gravity dam in Asia; part of the Bhakra–Nangal Project. |
| Baglihar, Salal, Dulhasti Dams | Jammu & Kashmir | Chenab | Built for hydroelectric power generation. |
| Almatti Dam | Karnataka | Krishna | Major dam of Karnataka; disputed with Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh; also known as Lal Bahadur Shastri Dam. |
| Tungabhadra Dam | Karnataka | Tungabhadra | Used for irrigation and hydroelectric power generation. |
| Krishnarajasagar Dam | Karnataka | Cauvery | Lifeline of the Mysore region. |
| Idukki Dam | Kerala | Periyar | The largest hydroelectric dam in Kerala. |
| Mullaperiyar Dam | Kerala / Tamil Nadu | Periyar | A disputed dam between Kerala and Tamil Nadu. |
| Banasura Sagar Dam | Kerala | Karamanasha Tributary | The largest earthen dam in India. |
| Indira Sagar Dam | Madhya Pradesh | Narmada | Largest reservoir in India by surface area. |
| Gandhi Sagar Dam | Madhya Pradesh / Rajasthan | Chambal | The first dam of the Chambal Valley Project. |
| Koyna Dam | Maharashtra | Koyna | The largest hydroelectric dam in Maharashtra. |
| Hirakud Dam | Odisha | Mahanadi | The longest earthen dam in Asia. |
| Ranjit Sagar Dam | Punjab | Ravi | Used for irrigation and power generation. |
| Rana Pratap Sagar Dam | Rajasthan | Chambal | Part of the Chambal Valley Project. |
| Bisalpur Dam | Rajasthan | Banas | Main source of drinking water for Jaipur. |
| Mettur Dam | Tamil Nadu | Cauvery | The oldest and most important dam in Tamil Nadu. |
| Rihand Dam | Uttar Pradesh | Rihand | The largest multipurpose dam in India. |
| Tehri Dam | Uttarakhand | Bhagirathi and Bhilangna | The highest dam in India (~260 meters). |
| Farakka Barrage | West Bengal | Ganga | Maintains water flow in the Kolkata port. |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Maithon Dam | West Bengal / Jharkhand | Barakar | Part of the Damodar Valley Corporation project. |
| Panchet Dam | West Bengal / Jharkhand | Damodar | A component of the Damodar Valley Corporation project. |
| Tilaiya Dam | Jharkhand | Barakar | The first project under the Damodar Valley Corporation. |
| Kallanai (Grand Anicut) Dam | Tamil Nadu | Cauvery | The oldest dam in India, also known as the Grand Anicut. |

Transportation in India

Road Transport

- **State with the highest number of roads:** Maharashtra
- **State with the lowest number of roads:** Sikkim
- **State with the highest number of paved roads:** Maharashtra
- **State with the highest number of unpaved roads:** Odisha
- **State with the highest road density:** Goa
- **State with the lowest road density:** Jammu & Kashmir
- **Longest road tunnel in India:** Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel, Jammu & Kashmir (9.2 km)

- **Longest road bridge in India:** Bhupen Hazarika Bridge, Assam (9.15 km)
- **Second longest National Highway in India:** NH-27, Porbandar (Gujarat) to Silchar (Assam), 3,507 km
- **State with the highest number of National Highways:** Maharashtra (102)
- **State with the lowest number of National Highways:** Meghalaya (5)
- **Shortest National Highway in India:** NH-327B, West Bengal (1.2 km)
- **Golden Quadrilateral cities:** Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata

National Highways

| National Highway | Connects | Key Features |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| NH-44 | Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir) – Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) | India's longest National Highway; approximately 3,745 km; passes through 12 states and Union Territories (from Jammu & Kashmir to Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)) 7 NHs were merged to form National Highway 44 (NH 44) |
| NH-27 | Silchar (Assam) – Porbandar (Gujarat) | India's second-longest highway; East–West corridor |
| NH-19 (formerly NH-2) | Delhi – Kolkata (via Jhansi, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Dhanbad) | Part of the Golden Quadrilateral; runs parallel to the Ganga |
| NH-48 | Delhi – Mumbai – Bengaluru – Chennai | Major part of the Golden Quadrilateral |
| NH-16 (formerly NH-5) | Kolkata – Chennai (via Odisha and Andhra coasts) | Eastern Coastal Highway; main route for Andhra Pradesh and Odisha |
| NH-8 (now part of NH-48) | Delhi – Mumbai | Busiest industrial corridor |
| NH-1 (now part of NH-44) | Delhi – Amritsar (Wagah Border) | Key route in North India; historically significant / Sher Shah Suri Route |

Fact to Know:

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):** An autonomous body under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, established in 1995, maintains National Highways.
- At present, the Grand Trunk Road extends from Amritsar to Kolkata in India.
- Roads are classified in 6 categories in India.

Railway Transport:

- The first train in India ran on **16 April 1853** between **Mumbai and Thane**. This train was named "**Black Beauty**."
- **Founder of Railways in India: Lord Dalhousie** is considered the father of railways in India.

Metro Services in India:

- The first metro in India was inaugurated in **Kolkata (Calcutta Metro)**.
- In **2011**, **Namma Metro** in **Bengaluru** was launched with support from **Japan**.

Important facts related to Railways

- **Longest train route in India:** Vivek Express (Kanyakumari to Dibrugarh)
- **Fastest train in India:** Vande Bharat Express (Varanasi to Delhi)
- **Longest railway platform in India:** Hubli / Siddharudha Swami Railway Station, Karnataka (since 2020)
- **Largest railway station in India:** Howrah, West Bengal

- **India's first solar-powered railway station:** Guwahati (2018)
- **Railway services between India and Bangladesh:** Maitree Express and Bandhan Express
- **Railway services between India and Pakistan:** Thar Express and Samjhauta Express
- **Mountain railway services in India:** Kalka–Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Darjeeling (West Bengal), and Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu)
- **India's first private railway station:** Rani Kamalapati Station, Habibganj, Madhya Pradesh
- **Proposed bullet train service in India:** Ahmedabad to Mumbai
- **Konkan Railway Service (1990):** Operates between Roha (Maharashtra) and Mangaluru (Karnataka) covering 760 km
- **Indian Railways in UNESCO World Heritage List:**
 - ✓ Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
 - ✓ Nilgiri Mountain Railway
 - ✓ Kalka–Shimla Railway
- **Konkan Railway:** Started in 1990; serves Maharashtra (Roha), Goa, and Karnataka (Mangaluru); 760 km long.

Fact to Know:

- The Indian Railways has integrated its helpline numbers into a single number, that is 139.

Railway Zone

| Railway Zone | Headquarters | States/Regions Covered |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Northern Railway | Delhi | Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir |
| North Central Railway | Prayagraj (Allahabad) | Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan |
| North Eastern Railway | Gorakhpur | Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, part of West Bengal |
| North East Frontier Railway | Maligaon, Guwahati | Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, part of West Bengal, Bihar, Meghalaya |
| North Western Railway | Jaipur | Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, part of Uttar Pradesh |
| Eastern Railway | Kolkata | West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar |
| East Central Railway | Hajipur | Bihar, Jharkhand, part of Uttar Pradesh |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| East Coast Railway | Bhubaneswar | Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh |
| Southern Railway | Chennai Central | Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka |
| South Central Railway | Secunderabad | Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, parts of Karnataka |
| South Coast Railway | Visakhapatnam | Coastal Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada divisions) |
| South Eastern Railway | Garden Reach, Kolkata | West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha |
| South East Central Railway | Bilaspur | Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, parts of Madhya Pradesh |
| South Western Railway | Hubli | Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, parts of Maharashtra |
| Western Railway | Mumbai | Maharashtra, Gujarat, parts of Rajasthan |
| West Central Railway | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, parts of Rajasthan |
| Central Railway | Mumbai | Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, parts of Andhra Pradesh |
| Konkan Railway | Navi Mumbai | Konkan region of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka (started in 1998) |
| Metro Railway (Kolkata) | Kolkata | West Bengal (Kolkata Metropolitan Area; announced in 2010) |

Railways Tunnel

| Tunnel Name | Track Length (meters) | Location | Railway Division |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel | 11,215 m | Jammu & Kashmir | Northern Railway |
| Atal Tunnel (Rohtang passageway) | 9,020 m | Himachal Pradesh | Northern Railway |
| Sangaldaan Tunnel | 8,000 m | Jammu & Kashmir | Northern Railway |
| Karbude Tunnel (T-35) | 6,505 m | Maharashtra | Konkan Railway |
| Nathu Wadi Tunnel (T-6) | 4,390 m | Maharashtra | Konkan Railway |
| Tike Tunnel (T-39) | 4,078 m | Maharashtra | Konkan Railway |
| Barviewadi Tunnel (T-49) | 4,000 m | Maharashtra | Konkan Railway |
| Savarde Tunnel (T-17) | 3,429 m | Maharashtra | Konkan Railway |
| Barsem Tunnel (T-73) | 3,343 m | Goa | Konkan Railway |
| Karwar Tunnel (T-80) | 2,950 m | Karnataka | Konkan Railway |

Waterways

- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** was established in 1986 under the **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985** as an autonomous organization for the development, maintenance, and regulation of national waterways.
- Under the **National Waterways Act, 2016**, 111 inland waterways were declared as National Waterways.

Major National Waterways of India:

| Serial No. | National Waterway (NW) No. | Name | Length (km) | Location (States) |
|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1 | NW-1 | Ganga–Bhagirathi–Hooghly River System | 1,620 | Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal (Allahabad-Haldia stretch) |
| 2 | NW-2 | Brahmaputra River | 891 | Assam |

| | | | | |
|---|--------|--|-----|--------------------------------|
| 3 | NW-3 | West Coast Canal, Champakara, and Udyogmandal Canals | 205 | Kerala |
| 4 | NW-4 | Krishna River | 82 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 5 | NW-100 | Tapi River | 436 | Gujarat and Maharashtra |
| 6 | NW-96 | Subarnarekha River | 314 | Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal |
| 7 | NW-97 | Sundarbans Waterway | 172 | West Bengal |
| 8 | NW-99 | Tamiraparani River | 62 | Tamil Nadu |

Types of Ports in India

Major Ports:

- Directly administered by the Central Government.
- Operate under the **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021**.
- **Major Ports: 13. Examples:** Mumbai, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Kandla

| Port | State | Key Features |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Kandla (Deendayal Port Trust) | Gujarat (Gulf of Kutch) | Protected natural tidal port; largest state-operated cargo port developed as a major port to cater to the needs of western and north-western parts of the country and also to reduce the pressure at Mumbai port. |
| Mumbai Port Trust | Maharashtra | Busiest and largest natural port |
| Jawaharlal Nehru (Nhava Sheva) | Maharashtra | India's largest artificial and container port; satellite port |
| Mormugao Port | Goa | Developed for iron ore export; natural port |
| New Mangalore Port | Karnataka | Karnataka's only major port; deepest inland port on the western coast |
| Cochin Port | Kerala | India's largest international container transshipment terminal; known as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea" |
| Chennai Port | Tamil Nadu | Largest port on the Bay of Bengal and India's second-largest container port |
| Kamarajar (Ennore) Port | Tamil Nadu | India's first corporatized or corporate-managed major port |
| Paradip Port | Odisha | Located at the confluence of Mahanadi and Bay of Bengal; deep-water port |
| Visakhapatnam Port | Andhra Pradesh | Second-largest cargo port; deepest land-locked port |
| Tuticorin (V.O. Chidambaranar) | Tamil Nadu | India's third-largest container terminal |
| Kolkata (Syama Prasad Mukherjee) Port | West Bengal | India's oldest operational and only major river port; dual dock system (Haldia-Kolkata) |
| Vadhavan (Proposed) Port | Maharashtra | Main greenfield port under the Sagarmala Project Ports to be developed under the Sagarmala Project: Vadhavan (Maharashtra), Ennore (Tamil Nadu), Tajpur (West Bengal), Paradip Outer Harbor (Odisha), Sirikazhi (Tamil Nadu), Belekeri (Karnataka) |

Air Transport:

- **Beginning:** 1911, between Allahabad and Naini (10 km); **Tata Airlines** was established in 1932.
- **Operation & Regulation:** Managed by the **Airports Authority of India**, established in 1992 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- **Nationalization:** 1953
- From **January 2022**, **Air India** became a **private company**.

Other Important Facts

- **India's first airport:** Santacruz / Juhu Airport, Mumbai

- **India's first solar-powered airport:** Cochin (Kochi) International Airport
- **India's first green airport:** Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- **India's busiest airport:** Indira Gandhi International Airport
- **Largest airport in India by area:** Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
- **Largest proposed airport in India:** Jewar (Noida) Airport
- **India's 100th airport:** Pakyong Airport

