

General Knowledge Notes

History | Geography | Polity | Economy

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Topics Covered in this PDF:

1. Indian History
2. Indian Geography
3. MCQ Practice

Prepared for: SSC CGL/CHSL | IBPS PO/Clerk | UPSC | All Govt Exams

1. Indian History — Key Points

Ancient India

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. The Indus Valley Civilization (2600–1900 BCE) flourished in present-day Pakistan and northwest India. Major cities were Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, known for urban planning and drainage systems.

Q. Which civilization is also called Harappan Civilization?

Ans: Indus Valley Civilization (2600–1900 BCE)

Q. Who wrote Arthashastra?

Ans: Kautilya (Chanakya), advisor to Chandragupta Maurya

Q. When did the Maurya Empire begin?

Ans: 321 BCE, founded by Chandragupta Maurya

Q. Who was the greatest Mauryan ruler?

Ans: Ashoka the Great (268–232 BCE), known for spreading Buddhism

2. Indian Geography — Key Points

Physical Features

India is the 7th largest country in the world with an area of 3.29 million sq km. It is bounded by the Himalayas in the north, Arabian Sea in the west, Bay of Bengal in the east, and the Indian Ocean in the south.

Q. What is the total area of India?

Ans: 3.29 million sq km (32,87,263 sq km)

Q. Which is the highest peak in India?

Ans: Kangchenjunga (8,586 m) — K2 is in Pakistan-administered Kashmir

Q. Which is the longest river in India?

Ans: Ganga (2,525 km)

Q. Which state has the longest coastline?

Ans: Gujarat (1,600 km)

3. MCQ Practice Set

Q. The capital of India is:

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Chennai

Answer: (b) New Delhi

Q. How many states are there in India (2024)?

- (a) 28

- (b) 29
- (c) 30
- (d) 32

Answer: (a) 28

Q. Which river is known as the Sorrow of Bihar?

- (a) Ganga
- (b) Yamuna
- (c) Kosi
- (d) Son

Answer: (c) Kosi

Q. The Tropic of Cancer passes through how many Indian states?

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 8
- (d) 9

Answer: (c) 8

Q. Who gave the slogan "Jai Hind"?

- (a) Gandhi
- (b) Nehru
- (c) Subhas Chandra Bose
- (d) Bhagat Singh

Answer: (c) Subhas Chandra Bose