

**ALPHALEARN STUDYLAB**

CBSE / NCERT • Academic Year 2026-27

# STD 6

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

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### COMPLETE STUDY GUIDE

Exploring Society: India and Beyond - All 14 Chapters

- \* Interesting Facts to Open Every Chapter
  - \* Detailed Concept Notes
  - \* A Mind Map for Every Chapter
  - \* Quick Glossary & Study Tips
- \* 898 Questions - Every One Fully Solved

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Based on CBSE / NCERT Curriculum

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## How every chapter is organised

- Did You Know? - interesting facts to open the chapter
- Concept Notes - every idea explained with examples
- Chapter Mind Map - the whole chapter on a single page
- Quick Glossary and Study Tips - ready for revision
- Model Answer Sheet - how to answer every question in the chapter

## CHAPTER

# 1

# Locating Places on the Earth

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Interesting Facts • Concept Notes • Mind Map • Model Answers

SAMPLE PREVIEW  
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Exploring Society: India and Beyond | CBSE / NCERT

# Chapter 1: Locating Places on the Earth

Class 6 Social Science (Exploring Society: India and Beyond) — Complete Study Guide

## DID YOU KNOW? — INTERESTING FACTS

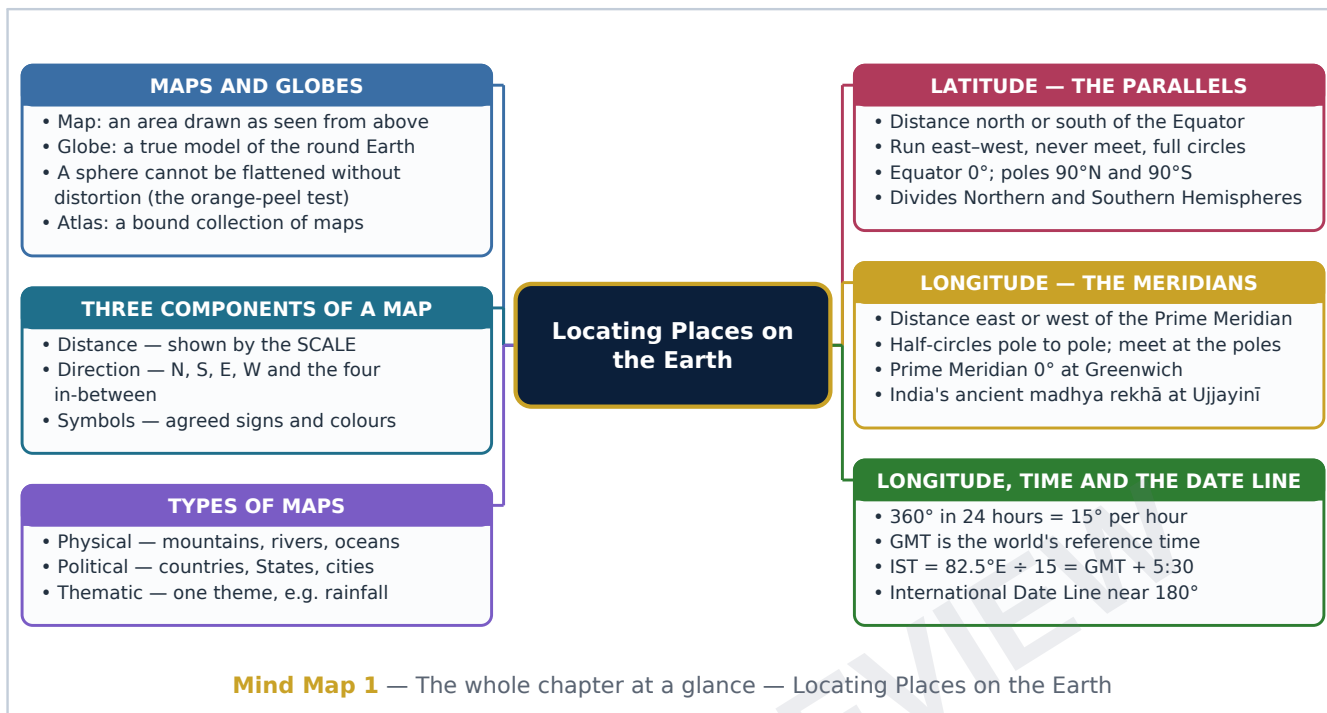
- ✦ India had its OWN prime meridian centuries before Greenwich. Ancient astronomers used the madhya rekhā — the 'middle line' — running through Ujjayinī (today's Ujjain), and every Indian astronomical calculation was measured from it.
- ✦ The Greenwich Prime Meridian is only about 140 years old. Nations agreed on it in 1884 at a conference in Washington DC — before that, different countries each measured longitude from their own capital.
- ✦ Varāhamihira, who worked at Ujjain around 1,500 years ago, wrote that the Earth was spherical and held things to itself — an idea about gravity written down roughly a thousand years before Newton.
- ✦ There are places where you can stand in two days at once. Step across the International Date Line and the calendar date changes, even though the time of day barely does.
- ✦ India is wide enough that the sun rises in Arunachal Pradesh almost TWO HOURS before it rises in Gujarat — yet every clock in the country shows the same time.
- ✦ You cannot flatten the Earth without damaging it. Peel an orange and try to press the skin flat: it tears. Every flat map of the world therefore stretches or squeezes something.
- ✦ Only a few countries use a half-hour offset like India's GMT +5:30. Nepal goes further with GMT +5:45, one of the very few 45-minute time zones on Earth.

## CONCEPT NOTES

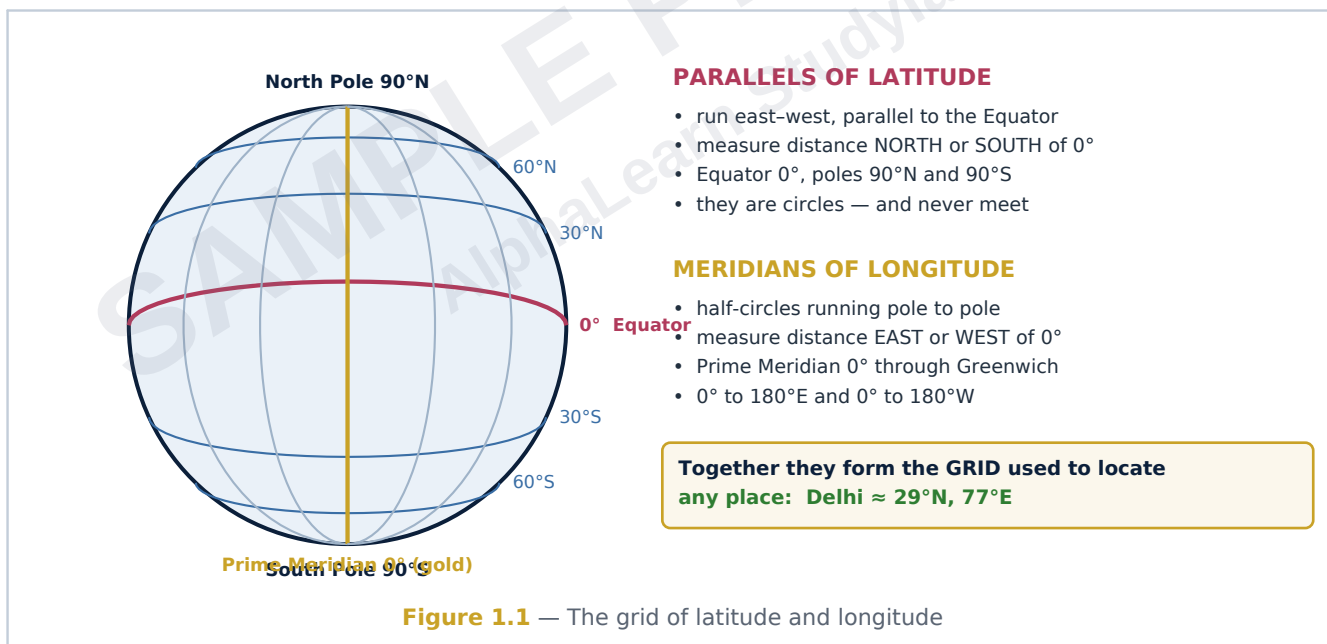
- A MAP is a drawing of an area — small or large — shown as if seen from directly above. A GLOBE is a model of the whole Earth, and because it is round it shows shapes and distances more truthfully than any flat map.
- WHY FLAT MAPS DISTORT: the Earth is nearly spherical. A curved surface cannot be flattened without stretching or tearing — exactly like the skin of a peeled orange pressed onto a table. Every flat map therefore contains some distortion.
- THE THREE COMPONENTS OF A MAP are DISTANCE (shown by the scale), DIRECTION (shown by the compass rose or north arrow) and SYMBOLS (agreed signs and colours for rivers, roads, railways, forests and so on).
- SCALE tells you how a distance on the map relates to the real distance on the ground — for example, 1 cm on the map may represent 10 km on the Earth. A large-scale map shows a small area in great detail; a small-scale map shows a large area with less detail.
- DIRECTION: the four CARDINAL directions are North, South, East and West. Between them lie the four intermediate directions — north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west. On most maps, north is at the top.
- SYMBOLS let a map show a great deal in a small space. Conventional symbols and colours are used worldwide — blue for water bodies, green for plains and forests, brown for mountains — so that any reader can understand a map.
- THREE TYPES OF MAPS — PHYSICAL maps show natural features such as mountains, rivers and oceans. POLITICAL maps show countries, States, boundaries and cities. THEMATIC maps show one particular theme, such as rainfall, population or crops. A collection of maps bound together is called an ATLAS.

- **LATITUDE** is the angular distance of a place NORTH or SOUTH of the Equator. The lines are called **PARALLELS** of latitude: they run east-west, are always parallel to one another, form complete circles, and never meet.
- **KEY PARALLELS**: the Equator is 0°, the North Pole is 90°N and the South Pole is 90°S. The Equator divides the Earth into the NORTHERN and SOUTHERN Hemispheres.
- **LONGITUDE** is the angular distance of a place EAST or WEST of the Prime Meridian. The lines are called **MERIDIANS** of longitude: they are half-circles running from pole to pole, they are NOT parallel, and they all meet at the two poles.
- **THE PRIME MERIDIAN** is 0° longitude and passes through Greenwich in London. Longitude is measured from 0° up to 180°E going east and 0° up to 180°W going west. The 0° meridian and the 180° meridian together divide the Earth into the EASTERN and WESTERN Hemispheres.
- **INDIA'S OWN PRIME MERIDIAN**: long before Greenwich was agreed upon, Indian astronomers used the madhya rekhā ('middle line') through Ujjayinī (modern Ujjain) as their zero reference. Some cities appear slightly off this line on modern maps because ancient instruments could not measure longitude as precisely as today.
- **THE GRID**: parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude drawn together form a network of **GRID LINES**. Any place on Earth can then be located by a pair of coordinates — just as a chessboard square is found by a letter and a number. Delhi is at roughly 29°N, 77°E.
- **LONGITUDE AND TIME**: the Earth turns through 360° in 24 hours, which is 15° every hour, or 1° every 4 minutes. Places to the EAST see the sun earlier, so their local time is **AHEAD**; places to the WEST are **BEHIND**.
- **GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT)** is the local time at the Prime Meridian and serves as the world's reference. **STANDARD TIME** is one uniform time adopted by a whole country so that railways, offices and broadcasts are not confused by many different local times.
- **INDIAN STANDARD TIME**: India spans roughly 68°E to 97°E, so 82.5°E was chosen as the standard meridian. Since  $82.5 \div 15 = 5.5$ , IST is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT, written GMT +5:30. When it is 12 noon at Greenwich it is 5:30 pm in India.
- **MANY TIME ZONES**: very large countries cannot use one time sensibly. Russia spans 11 time zones and the USA has 6, so that clock time stays in step with daylight across the whole country.
- **THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE** lies roughly along 180° longitude, opposite the Prime Meridian. Crossing it **WESTWARD** you **ADD** a day; crossing it **EASTWARD** you **LOSE** a day. It bends in places so that island groups and countries are not split between two dates.

## CHAPTER MIND MAP



## VISUAL CONCEPTS



## LONGITUDE DECIDES LOCAL TIME

The Earth turns  $360^\circ$  in 24 hours  $\rightarrow 360 \div 24 = 15^\circ$  every hour  $\rightarrow 4$  minutes per degree.  
**Prime Meridian (Greenwich) = GMT**



### HOW INDIAN STANDARD TIME IS FIXED

- India stretches from about  $68^\circ\text{E}$  to  $97^\circ\text{E}$  — too wide for one local time.
- The standard meridian chosen is  $82.5^\circ\text{E}$  (it passes near Mirzapur, U.P.).
- $82.5^\circ \div 15^\circ = 5.5$  hours  $\rightarrow$  **IST = GMT + 5:30, used by the whole country.**

**Figure 1.2** — How longitude fixes local time and IST

## QUICK GLOSSARY

**Map** — A drawing of an area as seen from directly above.

**Globe** — A spherical model of the Earth.

**Atlas** — A book or collection of maps.

**Scale** — The relation between a distance on a map and the real distance.

**Latitude** — Angular distance north or south of the Equator.

**Longitude** — Angular distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.

**Prime Meridian** — The  $0^\circ$  meridian, passing through Greenwich, London.

**Madhya rekhā** — India's ancient prime meridian, through Ujjayini (Ujjain).

**GMT** — Greenwich Mean Time — local time at the  $0^\circ$  meridian.

**IST** — Indian Standard Time, based on  $82.5^\circ\text{E}$ , equal to GMT + 5:30.

**International Date Line** — The line near  $180^\circ$  longitude where the date changes.

## STUDY TIPS & EXAM TRICKS

- ★ Remember the difference by the letters: latITUDE lines lie flat like the rungs of a ladder; longitude lines are the long ones running pole to pole.
- ★ Parallels never meet and are complete circles; meridians are half-circles and all meet at the poles. Examiners test this contrast almost every year.
- ★ Learn three numbers and most objective questions are answered: Equator  $0^\circ$ , poles  $90^\circ$ , and  $15^\circ$  of longitude per hour of time.
- ★ For any time-difference sum, first find the difference in degrees, then divide by 15 for hours (or multiply by 4 for minutes).
- ★ IST is derived, not chosen at random:  $82.5 \div 15 = 5.5$ , which is why India is GMT +5:30. Show this one-line working to earn the calculation mark.
- ★ Write coordinates as latitude FIRST, then longitude, each with its direction — Delhi  $\approx 29^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $77^\circ\text{E}$ . Dropping the N/E or the degree sign loses marks.
- ★ Date Line rule: travelling WESTWARD you ADD a day; travelling EASTWARD you lose one. Link it to 'West = Wednesday becomes Thursday' to fix it in memory.
- ★ When asked why flat maps are inaccurate, always give the orange-peel example — the textbook expects that specific illustration.

## MODEL ANSWER SHEET

How to answer every question in this chapter — each one written out the way an examiner expects to see it

### Section A — Objective Questions

#### ► Multiple Choice Questions

**Q1.** Which of the following is NOT a component of a map?

- (a) Scale (b) Direction (c) Colour of the soil (d) Symbols

**Answer:** (c) Colour of the soil

Explanation: The three main components of maps are distance (scale), direction, and symbols. Colour of soil is not a standard map component.

**Q2.** The Equator is located at which degree of latitude?

- (a) 90°N (b) 45°N (c) 0° (d) 90°S

**Answer:** (c) 0°

Explanation: The Equator is defined as latitude 0°. The poles are at 90°N and 90°S.

**Q3.** The Prime Meridian passes through which city?

- (a) Delhi (b) New York (c) Greenwich, London (d) Ujjain

**Answer:** (c) Greenwich, London

Explanation: In 1884, nations agreed to fix the Prime Meridian through Greenwich, an area of London, England.

**Q4.** Indian Standard Time (IST) is how many hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)?

- (a) 4 hours (b) 5.5 hours (c) 6 hours (d) 7.5 hours

**Answer:** (b) 5.5 hours

Explanation: IST is 5 hours 30 minutes (5.5 hours) ahead of GMT.

#### ► Fill in the Blanks

**Q5.** A book or collection of maps is called an \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** An atlas

**Q6.** The ancient Indian prime meridian called \_\_\_\_\_ passed through the city of Ujjain.

**Answer:** Madhya rekhā (or 'middle line')

**Q7.** The line located approximately at 180° longitude, opposite the Prime Meridian, is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** The International Date Line

#### ► Match the Following

| Column A                 | Column B                                               |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Latitude              | (a) Half-circle running from pole to pole              |
| 2. Meridian of Longitude | (b) Distance measured from the Equator                 |
| 3. Scale                 | (c) Shows how distance on map relates to real distance |

**Answer:** 1 → (b) Latitude — Distance measured from the Equator  
 2 → (a) Meridian of Longitude — Half-circle running from pole to pole  
 3 → (c) Scale — Shows how distance on map relates to real distance

## Section B — Very Short Answer Questions

**Q8.** What is a map?

**Answer:** A map is a representation (drawing) of some area — small or large — viewed as if from the top.

**Q9.** Name the four cardinal directions.

**Answer:** North (N), South (S), East (E), West (W).

**Q10.** What are parallels of latitude?

**Answer:** Parallels of latitude are imaginary lines drawn on the globe that run east to west, parallel to the Equator, each forming a circle around the Earth.

**Q11.** What are grid lines on a globe?

**Answer:** Grid lines are the network of parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude drawn together on the globe, forming a grid for locating any place on Earth.

**Q12.** What is the approximate longitude of Delhi?

**Answer:** Approximately 77°E.

**Q13.** Name the famous Indian astronomer who lived and worked in Ujjain about 1,500 years ago.

**Answer:** Varāhamihira.

**Q14.** What happens to the date when you cross the International Date Line while travelling westward?

**Answer:** Travelling westward across the International Date Line, you add a day (e.g., from Sunday to Monday).

**Q15.** By how many degrees does the Earth rotate every hour?

**Answer:** 15 degrees (since  $360^\circ \div 24 \text{ hours} = 15^\circ \text{ per hour}$ ).

## Section C — Short Answer Questions

**Q16.** What are the three types of maps? Give one example of each from everyday life or from your textbook.

**Answer:** The three types of maps are:

- (i) Physical maps — show natural features like mountains, rivers, and oceans. Example: a map showing the Himalayas and the Ganga river.
- (ii) Political maps — show countries, states, boundaries, and cities. Example: a map of India showing all its States and Union Territories.
- (iii) Thematic maps — show specific information on a theme. Example: a map showing rainfall distribution or population density.

**Q17.** Why is it not possible to represent a sphere accurately on a flat sheet of paper? Give the example used in the chapter to explain this.

**Answer:** The Earth is nearly spherical in shape. Representing a curved sphere accurately on a flat sheet of paper is impossible — just as peeling an orange and trying to flatten its skin on a table without tearing it is impossible. The curved surface must always distort when flattened, so flat maps involve some inaccuracy.

**Q18.** What is the relationship between longitude and local time? How many degrees of longitude equal one hour of time?

**Answer:** Longitude determines local time because the Earth rotates  $360^\circ$  in 24 hours, which equals  $15^\circ$  per hour. Each  $15^\circ$  eastward corresponds to 1 hour added to local time; each  $15^\circ$  westward corresponds to 1 hour subtracted. For example, if it is 12 noon at  $0^\circ$  (Greenwich), it is 1 pm local time at  $15^\circ\text{E}$  and 11 am at  $15^\circ\text{W}$ .

**Q19.** What is the significance of the Ujjayini meridian in ancient Indian astronomy? Why were some cities slightly off the meridian?

**Answer:** Long before the Greenwich Meridian was established, India had its own prime meridian called madhya rekhā ('middle line'), passing through Ujjayinī (modern Ujjain). Indian astronomers used it as the zero reference for longitude calculations in all astronomical texts. Some cities appear slightly off the meridian on modern maps because ancient timekeeping was not as precise as today, making exact longitude measurement difficult.

**Q20.** Why do some large countries like Russia or the USA have more than one standard time zone?

**Answer:** Some countries are so geographically vast that using a single standard time would be inconvenient. For example, if Russia (which spans 11 time zones) used one standard time, sunrise and sunset would occur at very different clock times across the country. Therefore, large countries adopt multiple time zones to ensure that daylight hours correspond reasonably to the clock. Russia has 11 time zones and the USA has 6.

## Section D — Long Answer Questions

**Q21.** Explain the coordinate system used to locate places on the Earth. Define latitude and longitude. Give the approximate coordinates of Delhi and New York using what you have learnt in this chapter.

**Answer:** To locate any place on Earth, we use a system of coordinates consisting of latitude and longitude — exactly as coordinates are used on a chessboard (letters a–h and numbers 1–8) or in a market (row number and shop number) to pinpoint a location precisely. Latitude measures the angular distance of a place from the Equator, moving towards the North or South Pole. The Equator is  $0^\circ$ , the North Pole is  $90^\circ\text{N}$ , and the South Pole is  $90^\circ\text{S}$ . Imaginary lines parallel to the Equator are called parallels of latitude. Longitude measures the angular distance east or west of the Prime Meridian ( $0^\circ$ ), which passes through Greenwich, London. These half-circles running from pole to pole are called meridians of longitude. Longitude increases from  $0^\circ$  to  $180^\circ\text{E}$  eastward and from  $0^\circ$  to  $180^\circ\text{W}$  westward. Together, latitude and longitude form a coordinate grid. For example: Delhi is at approximately  $29^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $77^\circ\text{E}$ . New York is at approximately  $41^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $74^\circ\text{W}$  (using rounded figures from the chapter).

**Q22.** Explain the concept of standard time using the example of India. Why is a single standard time important for a country? What is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), and how is Indian Standard Time (IST) derived from it?

**Answer:** Local time varies from place to place because the Earth rotates  $15^\circ$  per hour. It would be confusing for a country's citizens and systems (railways, broadcasts, offices) to use many different local times. Therefore, countries adopt a single standard time based on a chosen meridian. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is the local time at the Prime Meridian ( $0^\circ$  longitude) in Greenwich, England. It serves as the world's time reference. India covers longitudes from approximately  $68^\circ\text{E}$  to  $97^\circ\text{E}$ . The government has chosen  $82.5^\circ\text{E}$  as the standard meridian for India. Since  $82.5^\circ \div 15^\circ = 5.5$  hours, IST is 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of GMT (written as GMT +5:30). This means when it is 12:00 noon at Greenwich, it is 5:30 pm in India. A single IST ensures uniformity across the country, even though places in Assam experience sunrise and sunset considerably earlier than places in Gujarat. Local time and standard time differ — local time depends on exact longitude, while standard time is a uniform legal time adopted by the government.

## Section E — Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)

### ► Case-Based Question

*Riya is speaking on the phone with her cousin Arjun. Riya lives in Porbandar, Gujarat, and Arjun lives in Tinsukia, Assam. It is 5:00 pm for Riya and the sun is still bright. But Arjun says it is already dark at his place. Riya is confused — they are in the same country, so why is it dark in Assam but not in Gujarat?*

**Q23.** (i) Why is it already dark in Assam while Porbandar still has daylight? Explain using the concept of longitude.

**Answer:** (i) Tinsukia (Assam) is located at a significantly higher longitude (approximately  $95^\circ\text{E}$ ) compared to Porbandar (approximately  $69^\circ\text{E}$ ). Since the Earth rotates from west to east, eastern places experience sunrise and sunset earlier than western places. The difference in longitude is about  $26^\circ$ , which corresponds to approximately 1 hour 44 minutes difference in local time. So when Porbandar still has daylight at 5:00 pm local time, the sun has already set in Tinsukia.

**Q24.** (ii) Both Riya and Arjun check the clock and both show 5:00 pm. How is this possible if the local time is different in the two cities?

**Answer:** (ii) Both Riya and Arjun follow Indian Standard Time (IST), which is the same across the entire country regardless of actual local time. IST is based on the 82.5°E meridian. Even though local solar time differs between Gujarat and Assam, India uses a single standard time for the whole country for administrative and practical convenience. So their clocks both show 5:00 pm IST, but the actual solar position (local time) is different at each location.

► **Map-Based / Application Question**

**Q25.** India's latitudes extend from approximately 8°N to 37°N, and longitudes from 68°E to 97°E. Using this information:

(i) Does India lie completely in the Northern Hemisphere? Justify your answer.

(ii) If it is 12:00 noon at the Prime Meridian (0°), calculate the approximate local time at 82.5°E (the longitude used for IST). Show your calculation.

**Answer:** (i) Yes, India lies completely in the Northern Hemisphere. All of India's latitudes range from approximately 8°N to 37°N — all values are north of the Equator (0°). Therefore, India is entirely in the Northern Hemisphere and also entirely in the Eastern Hemisphere (68°E to 97°E).  
(ii) Calculation:  $82.5^{\circ}\text{E} \div 15^{\circ} \text{ per hour} = 5.5 \text{ hours ahead of the Prime Meridian}$ . If it is 12:00 noon at 0° (GMT), local time at 82.5°E = 12:00 + 5:30 = 5:30 pm. This is exactly why IST (Indian Standard Time) is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT.