

a continental breakfast, which consists of coffee or tea, juice, and bread. Guests can have different options of bread like loaf, croissants, scones, and muffins. The breakfast does not include cooked foods, such as pancakes or eggs. Under the continental plan, diners often find breakfast is self-serve, although many hotels have a waiter available to pour and refill beverages.

4. **The European Plan: Abbreviated as “EP”** means that the quoted rate does not include any meals and is strictly for lodging. The property owner will charge for the food separately. The advantage is that guest is free to try a variety of restaurant experiences, and can often save money by eating at establishments that charge less.

Meal Plan	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
The American Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
The Modified American Plan	Yes	Any one	
The Continental Plan	Yes	No	No
The European Plan	No	No	No

Exercise-1

1. What is the significance of accommodation for tourism

2. What do you understand by Meal Plan?

3. **Activity:** Visit a star categorised hotel and make a note of the available Facilities and services.

5.5 Available Packages

Available packages refer to the tour packages available for the tourists. The availability of a tour package of choice can affect the choice of destination taken by a tourist. For example a prospective traveller may have only three days to travel to a destination and back. A tour package offering travel and back within that period of time will be attractive to someone with limited time.

Available tour packages in present time affects the flow of tourists to a destination and therefore it can affect the tourism activities at a destination. Available packages can start from 2 days and 1 night and could extend up to weeks or months in a cruise or across the world. The package time i.e. days and night can vary to suit the need of the prospective tourist. Since the time and tour packages can attract tourist to a destination or deter a tourist from choosing a particular destination. Therefore, available packages play a very important role in tourism.

5.6 Activities

A tourist choosing a destination looks forward pursuing certain activities at the destination in order to get the most from the visit. These activities are important part of completing any tour experience and are very important for a tourist to enjoy their visit to any destination. Activities can involve:

1. **Sight Seeing:** A visit to a destination usually involves sightseeing. This could visit to the local monuments and historical places, national park or just a museum. Sightseeing is considered to be one of the most important activities a tourist chooses to take part on reaching a destination. Travelling to Agra will involve the Sightseeing activity of Taj Mahal and so on. Sightseeing gives the tourist a chance to know a destination and experience it.
2. **Shopping for Souvenirs:** Souvenir business people operate mostly from open air or make-shift stalls. They are involved in the business of selling ethnic arts and crafts products to an audience that is typically unfamiliar with the cultural and aesthetic criteria of the society which produces these artefacts. Since the beginning of travel souvenirs have been central to the tourist experience. In general travellers want to have a tangible object to take home with them that represents

the places they have been, the things they have seen, and the memories they have made. Cultural travellers seek authentic, quality souvenirs that represent the area. Tourists also buy souvenirs so that they have something that symbolizes the memories they have made during their trip. For travellers, souvenirs say, “Look where I have been!” or “Look what I have done!” to everyone who sees their souvenirs. Tourists are all looking for a unique memento from their trip to take home with them and the potential benefits from souvenir sales can be very important for the destination where the sales take place.



There are many other activities that are taken up at destination and can influence the flow of tourist to a destination. For Example, activities could be linked to adventure sports activities as different destination offer chances for different types of adventure sports, to visit a theme park and so on.

5.7 Ancillary Services

Ancillary services otherwise known as support services are the essential part of the total tourist infrastructure and play an important role in the development and promotion of tourism at any tourist destination. Today there are a variety of services that constitute the tourism infrastructure or are directly and indirectly related to tourism. The various ancillary services in tourism include:

1. **Guides:** A person who guides visitors in the language of their choice and interprets the cultural and natural heritage of an area, which person normally possesses an area-specific qualification usually issued and/or recognized by the appropriate authority. The tour guide is a qualified person who accompanies people visiting works of art, museums, galleries, archaeological sites, and who explains the historical, artistic, monumental and natural attractions. The guide is a public relation

representative of the place he chooses to work. In today's international tourism it may happen that, without the role of mediators, existing destination resources remain either unavailable to visitors or not properly understood and valued by them. Interpretation of the local heritage, living culture, values and cultural identity in general is the key component of the contemporary guide's role. Tourist guides are front-line professionals who, unlike any other tourism players establish a close, intense and influencing contact with visitors at the same time protecting interests of sustainable tourism. They are often called "tourism ambassadors" of their destinations. Nevertheless, their profession is commonly perceived as an ancillary, repetitive and mass tourism activity, although it can be a very effective tool in the construction of tourist experiences.

2. **Escorts:** The tour escort is a qualified person who accompanies people travelling through different destinations, countries and abroad to assure the regular running of the planned trips. He provides the necessary support services for its entire duration, giving significant information of the site. Depending upon the nature of the tour, an escort is supposed to perform the role of an accompanying manager to a subject expert. In escorted tours the jobs of escort also include looking after facilitation, getting the custom clearances done or check in etc. at airports. The escort is responsible for the entire group during the journey and at the destination.
3. **Health Services:** Health facilities are places that provide health care. They include hospitals, clinics, outpatient care centres and specialized care centres. Access to comprehensive, quality health care services is important for the achievement of health equity and for increasing the quality of a healthy life for everyone. Provision of basic health services is a basic aid to the tourist destination. To cater the need of health care and first aid all tourist destinations should have the basic health care facilities both within the destination as well as en route to destinations.
4. **Documentation:** A tourist for travel and during travel needs various documents such as, passport, visa, ticket, health documents and insurance etc. A tourist is governed by the law and regulations in force in the country which he visits. A tourism professional dealing with outbound and inbound tourists should be well versed with the information about what travel documentation do I need to travel outside his country and the preparation of these travel documentation. The various travel documents required for international travel include:
 - i. **Passport:** An official document issued by the traveller's country of origin that certifies one's identity and citizenship and permits him to travel abroad.

Passport is a universally accepted international document that is sufficient for crossing the border and provides a person's identity and nationality. All passengers need a valid passport for international travel, regardless of the destination, but some countries require at least six months validity remaining on the passport.

- ii. **Visa:** A stamp marked on the applicant's passport or a certificate issued by the immigration authorities of the country the traveller is visiting to indicate that the applicant's credentials have been verified and he or she has been granted permission to enter the country for a temporary stay within a specified period.



Passports



Visa

- iii. **Air Ticket:** Confirmed return air ticket. A one-way air ticket will be accepted only for students or working professionals (Student Visa or Work Visa holders), as well as dependents of the working professionals.
- iv. **Travel Insurance:** An insurance product designed to cover the costs and reduce the risk associated with unexpected events during domestic or international travel. Travel insurance usually covers the insured in two main categories: costs associated with medical expenses and trip cancellations. It is advisable to carry valid medical and travel insurance when travelling internationally.
- v. **Telecommunication:** Communication technology plays a considerable role in travel and tourism, as much of modern tourism revolves around the ability of tourist destinations to communicate their benefits to potential visitors and the ability of those visitors to reach out to points of interest at the destination. The provision of all telecommunication facilities like phone, fax, cell services,

internet café within the tourist destinations and also en route to them is the basic necessity nowadays. Tourists need these services at destinations for their comfortable and convenient stay.

- vi. **Foreign Exchange:** Provision of foreign exchange services is one of the important components of tourist infrastructure catering the demand of foreign tourists. Foreign exchange is one of the most critical requirements for a traveller. Tourists visiting different countries need money in local currency for various services and facilities availed by them e.g. for a cab, public transport, meals or shopping etc. The growing proliferation of ATM's around the world means that the local currency is usually as close as the nearest cash machine, especially if one is flying into a major international airport. At destinations the foreign exchange services are available at international airports, banks and authorised agents/dealers. There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency comprising notes/coins, travellers' checks, drafts drawn on banks in India or bank letters of credit, a tourist may bring into India.



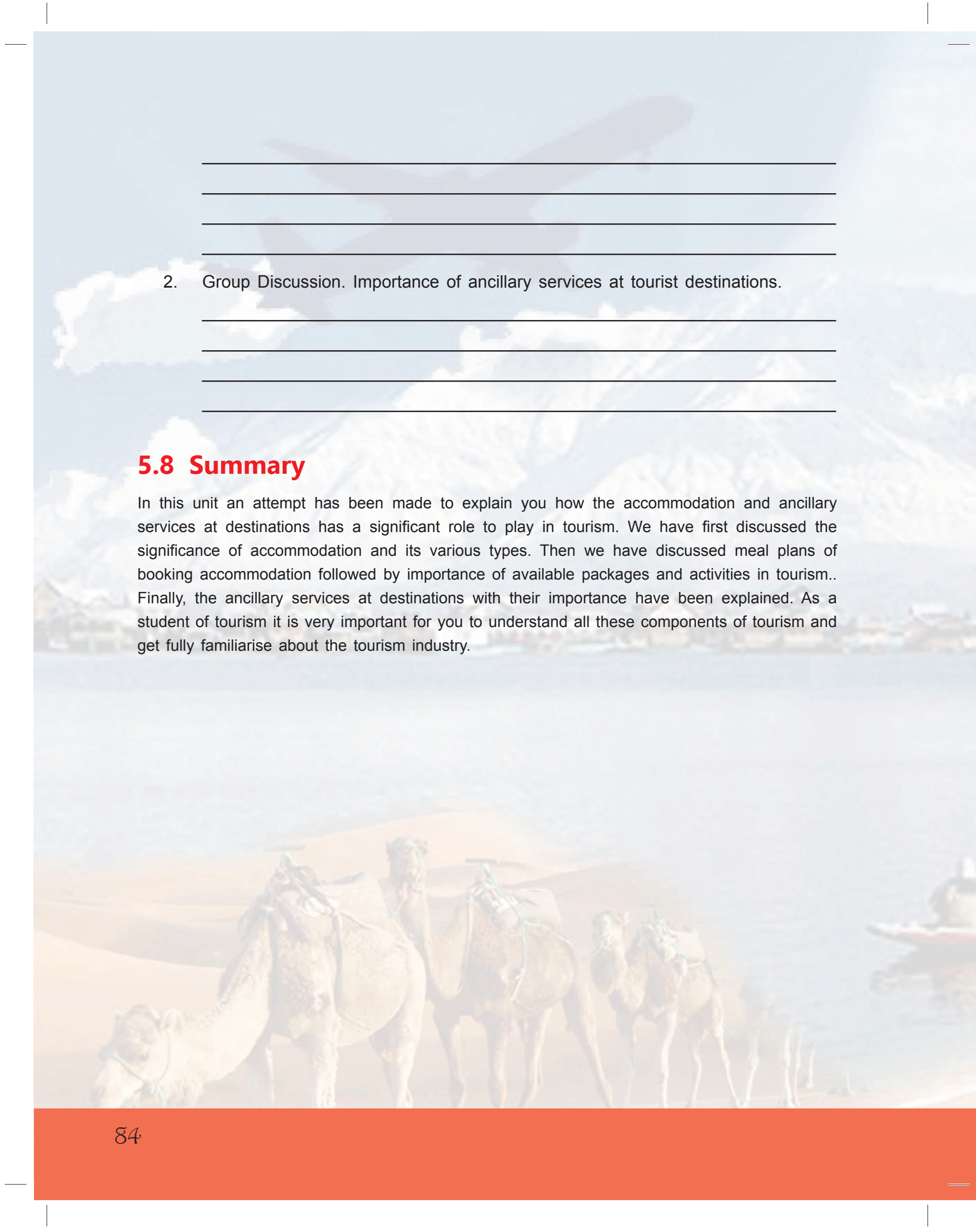
However, if the total amount of foreign currency notes/coins or travellers' checks brought into India at one time, exceeds USD 10000 or its equivalent, it is required to be declared by the holder to the Indian Customs authorities on arrival on a Currency Declaration Form (CDF).

ACTIVITY 2

Visit a travel agency to understand the process of documentation.

Exercise-2

1. What is the significance of accommodation for tourism?

- 
2. Group Discussion. Importance of ancillary services at tourist destinations.

5.8 Summary

In this unit an attempt has been made to explain you how the accommodation and ancillary services at destinations has a significant role to play in tourism. We have first discussed the significance of accommodation and its various types. Then we have discussed meal plans of booking accommodation followed by importance of available packages and activities in tourism.. Finally, the ancillary services at destinations with their importance have been explained. As a student of tourism it is very important for you to understand all these components of tourism and get fully familiarise about the tourism industry.

UNIT-6

INTER LINKAGE BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

Contents:

- 6.0 Unit Overview & Description
- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Significance of Geography in Tourism
- 6.3 Defining latitude and longitude
 - 6.3.1. Identification of Locations
 - 6.3.2. Time Calculation
- 6.4 Physical and Cultural Geography
- 6.5 Geographical Features and its Role in Tourism
- 6.6 Map Reading and Cartography
- 6.7 Indian Geography
 - 6.7.1 Physical Features
 - 6.7.2 Seasons
 - 6.7.3 Monsoons
- 6.8 Summary

6.0 Unit Overview & Description

This unit will provide the student information on the importance of geography in Tourism. It will help to understand the basic concepts of geography and the inter linkage between geography and tourism. This unit will introduce you to the:

- key aspects of geography and tourism
- importance of geography and its role in tourism

- time differences and calculation of local time
- study of Indian geography in brief

Resource Material:

Globe, World Map (Political and Physical), Atlas, Projection System, Posters, Colour Pencils, Map of India-Political and Physical

6.1 Introduction

Geography is the study of landscapes, environment, inhabitants and the environment. In other words it is the study of the physical features of earth. The distribution of natural features or the occurrence of some natural features is uneven, that shows the complexities of nature and the co-existence of human beings with the local environment. This can be called as the spatial characteristic.

Tourism, as you know by now, is the movement of people and the movement take place either near to their home environment/familiar places or strange places, unknown destinations or new areas. Tourists movements to various places are characterised by various factors such as the attractiveness of the place, distance from their home etc. The location of a destination, the climate of place, activities that can be undertaken in that destination are all based on geography. That is the reason why Geography plays a very important role in the development of tourism activities at any destination and this unit will allow you a chance to understand this linkage between tourism and geography.

6.2 Significance of Geography in Tourism

Study of geography gives us the true picture of the environment we live in. It describes the spatial relationship between man and nature at a given place. It also gives a framework to understand the differences in cultures, economies, landscapes and environments. Geography can be split in to two broad areas:

1. **Physical Geography:** it focuses on earth science and encompasses landscapes, soil, water, etc.
2. **Human Geography:** it is a study of human interactions on environment and the process of shaping societies. It is further divided in to cultural geography, population geography, political geography, development geography, health geography and economic geography.

Geographical features have a significant role in tourism. Travel pattern, destination development, destination management, visitors' profile, structure of tourism industry etc. are influenced by a number of geographical factors as explained below:

- Core factors influence destination selection (directly related to Geography)
 - Scenic beauty of a place (Hill station, trees and greenery, beaches, and so on)
 - Unique geographical features of a place (volcanic site, crater, etc.)
 - Distance (to reach/to complete to tour)
 - Demographic features (in the destination or around the destination. For eg. National Parks)
- Other factors (indirectly related to geography)
 - Political environment
 - Social development
 - Development of tourism related infrastructure (hotels, resorts, rail line etc)
 - Popularity of the destination (awareness about the destination)
 - Availability of services (tour operators, transporters etc.)
 - Visitor's patterns etc. (preferences of visitors)
 - Costs (to visit, to stay and to move around)

As you can see Geography plays an important role in the choice of a destination as well as the development of tourism related infrastructure and tourism activities. The development of some popular destinations and attractions is due to the geographical feature of that place. For example the 'Z' curves in the rail route of toy train to Darjeeling is a result of the geographical feature which does not allow regular rail lines to be laid. This has led the toy train of Darjeeling to a UN World Heritage. Similarly, Niagara Falls have made a small unknown place Buffalo a popular tourist destination.

ACTIVITY 1

Visit a destination near to the school and prepare an assignment on the destination features in terms of the geographical features

Exercise-1

1. Explain various factors that decide natural beauty of a destination.

2. Watch a documentary in the classroom on natural attractions of India by India Tourism

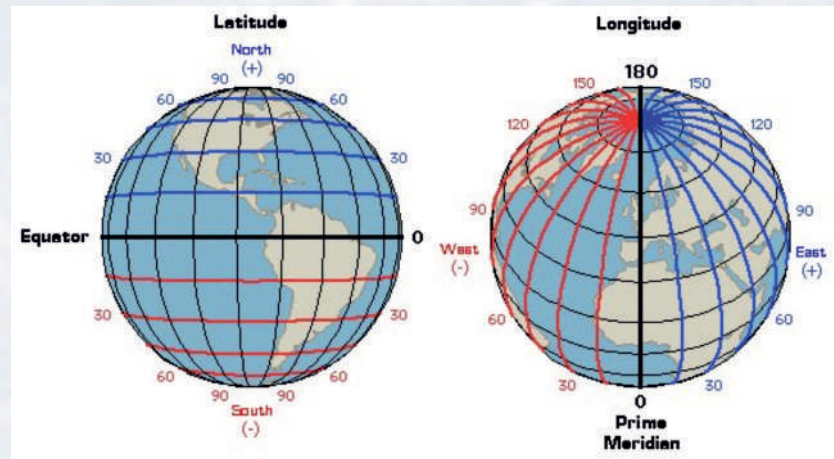
6.3 Defining Latitude and Longitude

Latitude and longitude are two fundamental concepts of learning the location in earth.

1. **Latitude** specifies the north/south point of destination, by taking the position from Equator (0°). All the latitudinal line circles parallel to earth. They are also known as the Parallels of Latitude. The latitude of the North Pole is 90° and the latitude of the South Pole is 90° . North Pole and South Pole denote the points and not circles. From Equator, to the North Pole the distance is 10,000 K.M. and one degree of latitude is 111 K.M. the following are the most important parallels of latitudes:

- **Equator:** Mid way between two poles, this divides the earth in to two hemispheres, i.e. Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere.
- **Tropic of Cancer:** Located $23\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ North of Equator. On 21 June noon, sunrays falls vertically on this line and it is also treated as the northern most limit of over head sun. During June most of the countries located in Northern Hemisphere experience summer.
- **Tropic of Capricorn:** It is located $23\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ South of Equator. On 22 December noon, sunrays falls vertically on this line and it is also treated as the southern most limit of over head sun.
- **Arctic Circle:** Located $66\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ North of Equator. 24 hours sunlight is available on 21 June as the sun is on the northern most limits.
- **Antarctic Circle:** Located $66\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ South of Equator. 24 hours sunlight is available on 21 December as the sun is on the southern most limits.
- **North Pole:** It is the northern most point of earth, which is located at 90° North of Equator.

- **South Pole:** it is the southern most point of earth, which is located at 90° South of Equator.
2. **Longitude** specifies the east-west position of a point on the Earth's surface from the Prime Meridian, ranging from 0° at the Prime Meridian to +180° eastward and -180° westward. The longitudes are referred to by the degree (0°) of change. Each longitude is mentioned as the degree as a matter of reference.



6.3.1 Identification of Locations

Checking the location of places on the map or globe is always easy when we have the degree as per latitude and longitude. To locate a place in a map,

- Understand the latitudinal point, where the place is located as per the degree as mentioned next to the place.
- Then find the longitudinal position point corresponding to the degree mentioned and correspond it to the latitudinal point.

The point where the latitudinal and longitudinal points meet, the desired place is located on that point. It is important to know exactly where a particular destination is located as it gives us some inkling about the climate of the destination, possible flora and fauna as well as the possible activities at the destination.

6.3.2 Calculation of Local Time

The world is divided in to 24 time zones. It begins with the Prime Meridian, which is also known as Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). It is also known as Universal Time Coordinated (UTC). Certain countries modify their standard time during the summer by advancing one

hour or a fraction of an hour in some areas. This is known as Day Light Saving Time.

To know the local time, the following steps are followed. (Manual)

- (a) Find out the GMT (Greenwich Mean Time/Universal Time Coordinated).
- (b) Find the time difference between GMT and local time
- (c) Calculate the local time by adding/deducting the time difference (from GMT) according to the location from GMT.

For Example 1: The local time of Delhi when the GMT is 12:00 hours.

- To find the local time of Delhi, we should know the time difference from GMT
- Indian Standard Time is 5.30 hours ahead of G.M.T. (+5.30)
- The local time at Delhi is 12:00 hours + 5.30 = 17:30 hours

For Example 2: The local time of Kingston (Jamaica) when the time at GMT is 12:00 hours

- To find the local time of Delhi, we should know the time difference from GMT
- The standard time of Kingston is 5 hours behind GMT
- Hence the local time at Kingston is 12:00 hours – 5 hours =>07:00 hours.

Though various time format can be used, 24 hours clock is used to express time in air and rail travel in India or International Travel as a standard time format. Therefore 6 am is 06:00 hours while 6 pm is 18:00 hours.

For Example 3: The local time at Delhi is 13:45 hours on 05 April 2012, what is the local time at Bangkok.

- Time difference from GMT: Delhi = +5.30 hours, Bangkok =+7 hours)
- Local Time at Delhi = 13:45 hours.
- Local Time at Bangkok = 13:45 + 1.30 hours. (Difference of time difference of Bangkok time at Delhi Time)
- Therefore local time at Bangkok is 15:15 hours on 05 April 2012, when it is 13:45 hours at Delhi on 05 April 2012.

For Example 4: The local time at Manama (Bahrain) when the local time at Delhi is 15:30 hours on 06 August 2012

- GMT difference with Manama = + 3.00hours.
- Local time at Delhi = 15:30 hours. (GMT difference with India =5.30 hours.)
- Local time at Manama = 5.30 -3.00=1.30 hours (time difference between India and Bahrain is 1.30 hours.)
- Therefore local time at Manama is 14:00 hours (15:30-1.30) on 06 August 2012 when it is the local time at Delhi is 15:30 hours on the said date.

For Example 5: The local time at Delhi, when it is 08:00 hours in Caracas (Venezuela) on 15 September 2012.

- GMT difference with Caracas = -4.00 hours.
- Indian Standard Time is 5.30 hours ahead of GMT, while Venezuela standard time is 4 hours behind GMT.
- Hence, the total time difference between India and Venezuela is 5.30 + 4 = 9.30 hours.
- Therefore the local time at Delhi is 17:30 hours on 15 September 2012, when it is 08:00 hours in Caracas (Venezuela) on 15 September 2012.

Exercise-2

1. How do time differences result in gaining time/losing time when you travel between countries?

2. Locate the following countries in the world map: Canada, Panama, Argentina, Spain, Finland, Italy, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, India, Thailand, Fiji and Japan.
3. Locate any two islands located in Pacific Ocean and Atlantic Ocean.
4. List the countries located on Equator.

6.4 Physical Geography and Cultural Geography

Geography is popularly studied as Physical and Cultural geography.

Physical Geography deals with the earth and its features. As a science it studies the lithosphere (Earth, its crust, Weathering, Soil Formation, Rocks, Agents of denudation, Wind, Sea, etc. It also studies the astronomical aspects such as solar system, and Natural Regions). Each area has developed in to sub branches such as Population Geography, Environmental Geography, Economic Geography, Cultural Geography etc.

Cultural Geography is associated with the cultural features of a place. The defined area shares some common characteristics that is visible through the expressions of people and their living. The cultural features are evolved out of some geographical phenomenon, which has a greater significance in the everyday life of people in that area. The forms of expression include traditions, rituals, worships, festivals and even behaviour of people. For example, lakes are treated with reverence in Sikkim. Though this reverence is out of religious beliefs, people staying nearby lakes carry it through generations. The space of the lake remain holy, hence the locals and visitors don't attempt to pollute it.

Another example is River Ganga, the pious and ancient river of India. River Ganga is treated with great reverence and for many people it is the centre of life and irrespective of age people worship River Ganga, and for every important ceremonies Water from River Ganga is used. Cities developed on the River Bank of Ganga also have numerous temples and important religious places. Festivals and Melas are celebrated and organised with great enthusiasm. The social life is centered around River Ganga in places like Gomukh, Haridwar, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna and Ganga Sagar, and the matter of fact is devotion and faith remain same and is passed on to generations to generations.

Thus a geographical phenomenon (River, Lake, Mountain, Hill, Forest, Rocks etc.), here River Ganga is influencing the daily life of people and have started to define the cultural life of people. Thus, Cultural Geography plays a crucial role in tourism. In short, the following are the main features of Cultural Geography :

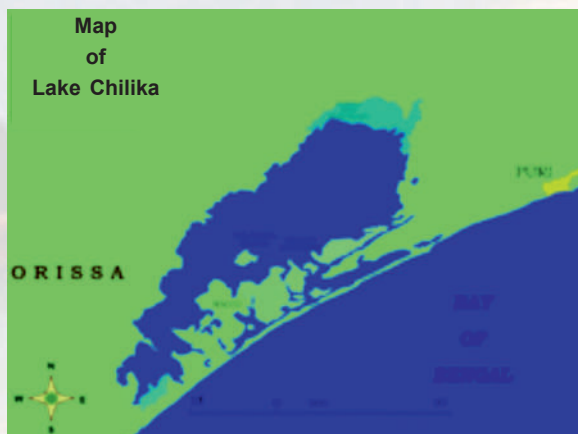
- Importance of the location in terms of a distinct geographical phenomenon
- Influence of the geographical phenomena in daily life of people
- Recognition and acceptance of local people on the specific feature
- Evolution of culture, traditions, and its expressions and the interference of the geographical feature in it.

6.5 Geographical Features and its Role in Tourism

Various forms of geographical features act as pulling factor in tourism. Curiosity is the major factor that pushes tourists to visit a destination. Depending up on the uniqueness of a place/destination in terms of geographical feature, and the awareness of the people about it draw visitors. Nowadays tourism administrators also give due attention to create awareness among the people in various forms of marketing methods.

Following examples show the different geographical features in different states of India which attract tourists.

- Kutch (Gujarat)
- Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir) – Cold Desert
- Yumthang (Sikkim) – Valley
- Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) – Desert
- Mt. Abu (Rajasthan) – Hill Station but Rock forms in Aravalli Range
- Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra) – view of Western Ghats
- Gupt Godavari (Chitrakut), M.P. – Caves
- Almora (Uttarakhand) – Hill station
- Lahul and Spiti (Himachal Pradesh) – Valley
- Hampi (Karnataka) – Heritage site, but also having rock formations
- Chilika Lake (Odisha) – Largest fresh water lake
- Allappee (Kerala) – Backwaters
- Kanyakumari – Meeting point of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea



Map of Chilika Lake



Cold Desert of Ladakh

There are several examples that can be quoted from worldwide.

- Tassili n' Ajjer – Algeria : It is a desert but known for changing the sand formations according to wind
- Victoria Falls – Located in Africa (Zambezi River)
- Limestone formations – Tsingy of Bemaraha, Mauritius
- Stonehenge – Can be seen in U.K
- Meteora Massif – Thessaly, Greece
- Cappadocia, Turkey Uzundere Valley – lunar like landscapes
- Mountains of Guilin, China
- Uluru: Sacred site, Australia
- Great Barrier Reef, Australia
- Near to North Pole – Aurora Borealis (also known as Northern Lights)
- The Grand Canyon – Formation of Canyons can be seen in U.S.
- Yellowstone National Park – Known for the lake and geysers (U.S.)



Stonehenge, U.K.

ACTIVITY 2

1. Conduct a visit/educational tour to the places of importance mentioned above, if possible
2. Activity: Watch documentaries/short films on the natural wonders of the world.

3. Activity: Make a Power Point Presentation on a natural attraction near to your school/residence.
4. Make a small gallery in your school on the topic of natural heritage of our Country.

6.6 Map Reading and Cartography

Map is a diagrammatic or pictorial representation of an area of land, sea showing various features (Political, Physical etc.). Maps represent the spatial features that maps aims to represent. Maps are widely used to understand the political boundaries, roads, rail routes, while features such as economic activities, population, physical resources, drainage, weather, etc. are mainly used by scientists, researchers, officials etc. **Cartography** refers to the study of maps and the process of map making. Usually maps are prepared in a flat surface. Different projection methods are used to create maps.

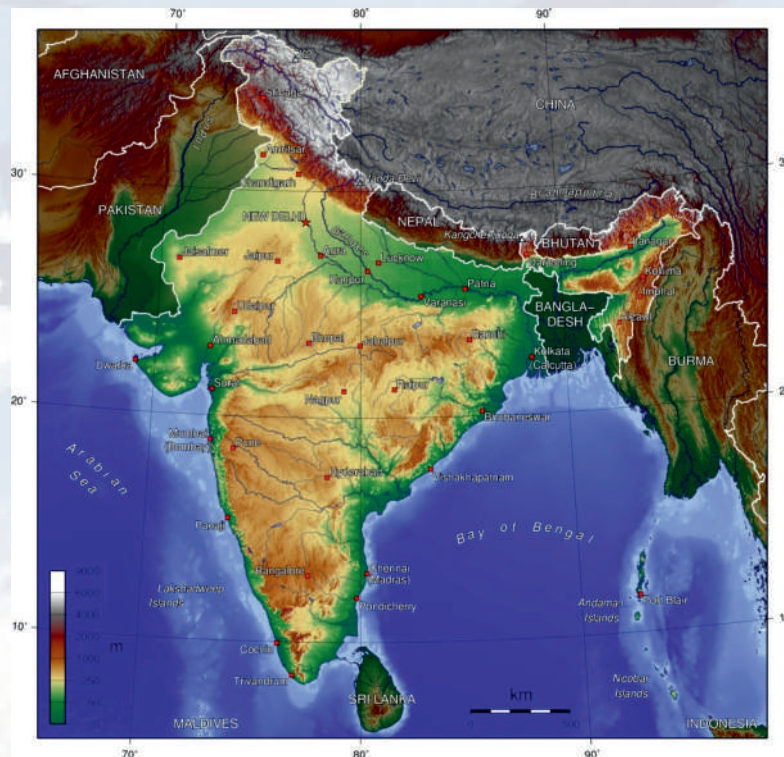
Scale: It is an expression of ratio of distance in the map. It corresponds to the distance on the earth's surface. When maps are prepared according to scales, it represents the accuracy of the distribution of space.

Legends: To understand the map easily map makers use various symbols. Colours, signs, pictures, diagrams etc. are used to depict information related to rivers, roads rail routes, rivers, political boundaries, monuments, etc. various types of graphs and colour pattern are also used to represent the statistical information related to a particular area.

Projections: Projections mean the representation of an area of earth in a paper. In order to avoid the distortions since map is on flat surface while earth is not flat. Projections help in angular relationships, correct directional relations along the circle, area, lines, distance.

6.7 Indian Geography

India is the 7th largest country in the world in terms of area. It stretches from snow capped Himalayas in the North to Coastal villages of South, tropical forests of South-West Coast, the Brahmaputra Valley in the East to the Desert in the West. Bounded by Himalayas in the North, it stretches southwards and at the tropic of cancer.



Topographic Map of India

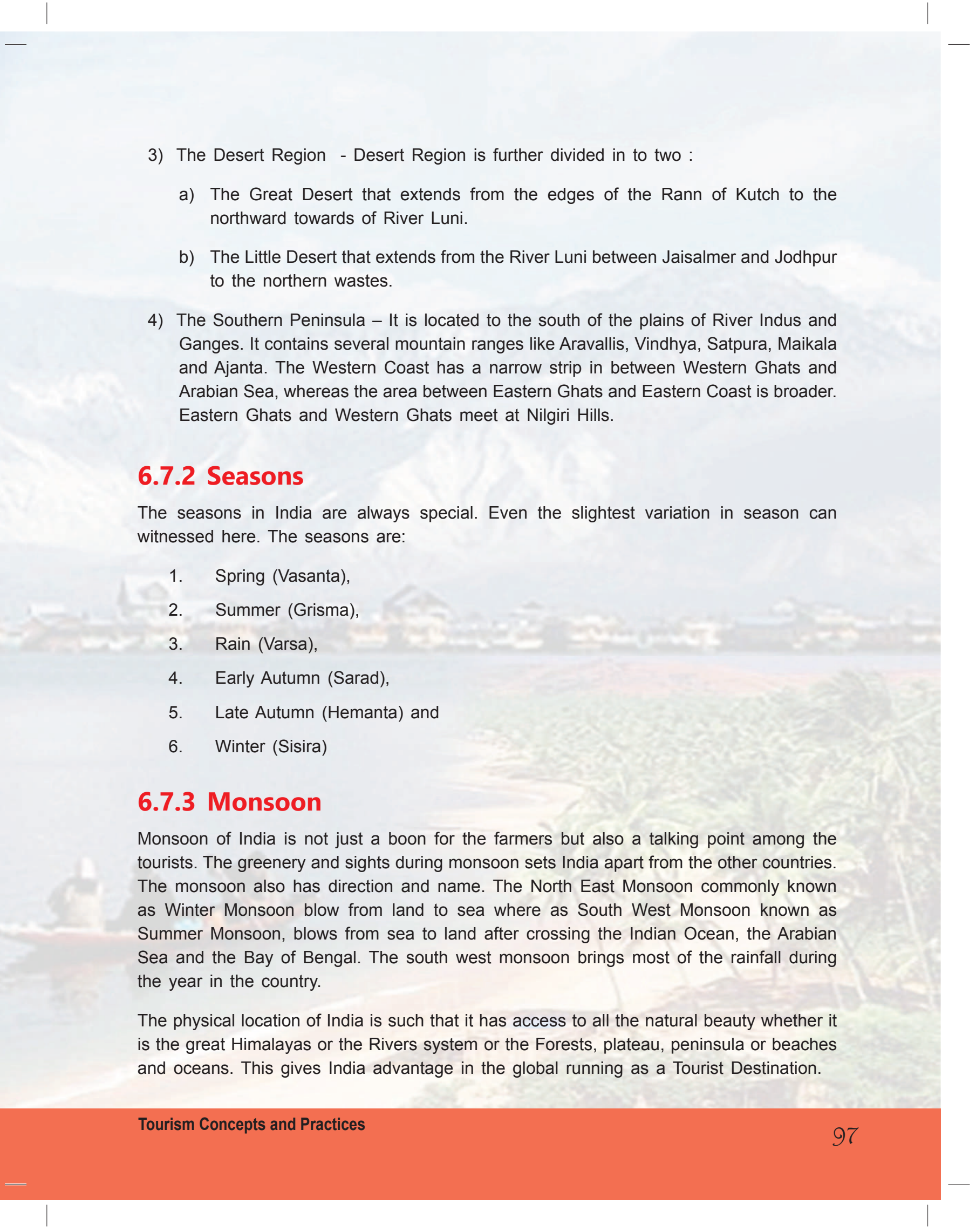
The main land of India lies in between $8^{\circ}4'$ and $37^{\circ}6'$ (latitudes) north, $68^{\circ}7'$ and $97^{\circ}25'$ (longitudes). The distance measured is about 3,214 km from north to south between latitudes and 2,933 km from east to west between longitudes. It has a land frontier of 15,200 km and the total length of the coast line of main land, Lakshadweep Islands, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands is 7,516.6 km

India shares border with Pakistan and Afghanistan to the north- west, China, Nepal and Bhutan to the North, Myanmar to the East and Bangladesh to the East of West Bengal. Palk Strait separates India and Sri Lanka.

6.7.1 Physical Features

To understand the topography of India the country is divided into regions, based on comparable characteristics. The main land of India comprises of 4 regions. They are

- 1) The Great Mountain Zone – The Himalayan range of Mountains stretching from Northern India till the Eastern part of the country form a part of the great mountain range.
- 2) The Plains of Ganga and Indus - Plains of Ganga and Indus ---> 2,400 k.m. long and 240-320 k.m. broad, formed by river basins of Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra.

- 
- 3) The Desert Region - Desert Region is further divided in to two :
- a) The Great Desert that extends from the edges of the Rann of Kutch to the northward towards of River Luni.
 - b) The Little Desert that extends from the River Luni between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur to the northern wastes.
- 4) The Southern Peninsula – It is located to the south of the plains of River Indus and Ganges. It contains several mountain ranges like Aravallis, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikala and Ajanta. The Western Coast has a narrow strip in between Western Ghats and Arabian Sea, whereas the area between Eastern Ghats and Eastern Coast is broader. Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats meet at Nilgiri Hills.

6.7.2 Seasons

The seasons in India are always special. Even the slightest variation in season can witnessed here. The seasons are:

- 1. Spring (Vasanta),
- 2. Summer (Grisma),
- 3. Rain (Varsa),
- 4. Early Autumn (Sarad),
- 5. Late Autumn (Hemanta) and
- 6. Winter (Sisira)

6.7.3 Monsoon

Monsoon of India is not just a boon for the farmers but also a talking point among the tourists. The greenery and sights during monsoon sets India apart from the other countries. The monsoon also has direction and name. The North East Monsoon commonly known as Winter Monsoon blow from land to sea where as South West Monsoon known as Summer Monsoon, blows from sea to land after crossing the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The south west monsoon brings most of the rainfall during the year in the country.

The physical location of India is such that it has access to all the natural beauty whether it is the great Himalayas or the Rivers system or the Forests, plateau, peninsula or beaches and oceans. This gives India advantage in the global running as a Tourist Destination.