



# INDIA: SIZE AND LOCATION



## Chapter 1 - Class 9 Geography

**CBSE Curriculum 2025-26**

Comprehensive Study Material by Math Love Institute

Raipur, Chhattisgarh



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### About India

India is a vast country with diverse physical features, climate, and culture. Understanding India's size and location is fundamental to studying its geography.

**Official Name:** Republic of India (Bharat)

**Capital:** New Delhi

**Form of Government:** Federal Democratic Republic

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## 2. SIZE OF INDIA

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### A. Area and Extent

#### Total Area:

- **32,87,263 sq km** (approximately 3.28 million sq km)
- Covers about **2.4%** of the world's total geographical area
- **7th largest country** in the world by area

#### Latitudinal Extent:

- **8°4'N to 37°6'N**
- Difference: **29°2'**
- About **3,214 km** from north to south

#### Longitudinal Extent:

- **68°7'E to 97°25'E**
- Difference: **29°18'**
- About **2,933 km** from west to east

### Important Facts

- India's land boundary: **15,200 km**
- India's coastline: **7,516.6 km**
- Including islands' coastline: **Total 7,516.6 km**
- India is entirely located in the **Northern and Eastern Hemisphere**

## B. Size Comparison

### India's Rank by Area (Top 7 Countries):

Rank	Country	Approximate Area
1	Russia	17.1 million sq km
2	Canada	9.9 million sq km
3	USA	9.8 million sq km
4	China	9.6 million sq km
5	Brazil	8.5 million sq km
6	Australia	7.7 million sq km
7	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>3.28 million sq km</b>

## 3. LOCATION OF INDIA

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### A. Position on Globe

#### Hemispheres:

- Entirely in **Northern Hemisphere**
- Entirely in **Eastern Hemisphere**

#### Tropic of Cancer (23°30'N):

- Passes through the **middle of India**
- Divides India into almost two equal parts
- Passes through 8 states:
  - Gujarat
  - Rajasthan
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Chhattisgarh
  - Jharkhand
  - West Bengal
  - Tripura
  - Mizoram

## B. Strategic Location

### Central Position in Asia:

- Located in **South Asia**
- Projects into the **Indian Ocean**
- Between East and West Asia
- Commands strategic position in Indian Ocean

### Advantages of India's Location:

1. **Central Position:** Acts as bridge between East and West Asia
2. **Trade Routes:** On major sea routes connecting Europe, Africa, and East Asia
3. **Indian Ocean:** India has longest coastline in Indian Ocean region
4. **Trans-Indian Ocean Routes:** Connects Suez Canal to Southeast Asia
5. **Cultural Exchange:** Facilitated spread of Indian culture to Southeast Asia

### Why is Indian Ocean named after India?

- India has the **longest coastline** in the Indian Ocean region
- India's **strategic location** in the ocean
- India's central position gives it **commanding presence**
- Historical importance of India in **trans-Indian Ocean trade**
- No other country has such a long coastline in this ocean

## 4. INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

### A. Land Boundaries

India shares land boundaries with 7 countries:

Direction	Neighbouring Country	Length of Border
Northwest	Pakistan	3,323 km
North	China	3,488 km
North	Nepal	1,751 km
North	Bhutan	699 km
Northeast	Myanmar	1,643 km
East	Bangladesh	4,096 km (longest)
Northwest	Afghanistan	106 km (POK)

## B. Water/Maritime Boundaries

India shares maritime boundaries with 2 countries:

Country	Separated By	Location
Sri Lanka	Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar	Southeast (across from Tamil Nadu)
Maldives	Sea	Southwest in Indian Ocean

**Important Water Bodies:**

- **Palk Strait:** Narrow channel between India and Sri Lanka
- **Gulf of Mannar:** Between India's south coast and Sri Lanka's west coast

### Key Points to Remember

- Total land neighbours: **7**
- Total water neighbours: **2**
- **Bangladesh** has the longest border with India (4,096 km)
- **Bhutan** has the shortest border with India (699 km)
- India and Sri Lanka are separated by **Palk Strait**
- India does NOT share border with: **Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan** (common mistake)

## 5. INDIA'S DIVISION

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### A. States and Union Territories

**Total States: 28**

**Total Union Territories: 8**

**8 Union Territories:**

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Capital: Port Blair)
2. Chandigarh
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Capital: Daman)
4. Delhi (National Capital Territory)
5. Jammu and Kashmir (Capital: Srinagar - summer, Jammu - winter)
6. Ladakh (Capital: Leh)
7. Lakshadweep (Capital: Kavaratti)
8. Puducherry (Capital: Puducherry)

## 💡 Difference: State vs Union Territory

States	Union Territories
Have their own elected government	Governed directly by Central Government
Have own legislature	Some have legislature, some don't
Chief Minister is head	Lt. Governor/Administrator is head
More administrative powers	Limited administrative powers



## 6. INDIA'S ISLANDS

### A. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Location:** Bay of Bengal (East)

**Details:**

- Total islands: **572**
- Two groups: **Andaman Islands** (north) and **Nicobar Islands** (south)
- Capital: **Port Blair**
- Separated by **Ten Degree Channel**
- **Southernmost point:** Indira Point (Great Nicobar Island)
- Previously called Pygmalion Point, renamed after Indira Gandhi

**Important Islands:**

- **Great Andaman:** Largest group
- **Little Andaman**
- **Car Nicobar:** Northernmost island of Nicobar
- **Great Nicobar:** Southernmost island

**Features:**

- Volcanic origin
- Covered with dense forests
- Rich biodiversity
- Barren Island: India's only active volcano

## B. Lakshadweep Islands

**Location:** Arabian Sea (West)

### **Details:**

- Total islands: **36**
- Capital: **Kavaratti**
- Smallest Union Territory of India
- Area: Only **32 sq km**
- Only 10 islands are inhabited

### **Important Islands:**

- **Kavaratti:** Administrative capital
- **Minicoy:** Largest island, separated from others by Nine Degree Channel
- **Amini**
- **Andrott:** Largest in area

### **Features:**

- Coral origin
- Located closer to Kerala coast
- Beautiful coral reefs
- Famous for marine biodiversity

## Comparison: Andaman & Nicobar vs Lakshadweep

Feature	Andaman & Nicobar	Lakshadweep
Location	Bay of Bengal (East)	Arabian Sea (West)
Number of Islands	572 (more)	36 (fewer)
Area	8,249 sq km (larger)	32 sq km (smaller)
Origin	Volcanic	Coral
Capital	Port Blair	Kavaratti
Southernmost Point	Indira Point (India's southernmost)	-



## 7. INDIAN STANDARD TIME (IST)

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### A. What is Indian Standard Time?

**IST Meridian:  $82^{\circ}30'E$**

**Location:**

- Passes through **Mirzapur** (Uttar Pradesh)
- Near Naini, Prayagraj (Allahabad)

**Time Difference from GMT:**

- IST is **5 hours 30 minutes ahead** of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)
- Or 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

## Why Do We Need IST?

### Problem Without Standard Time:

- India's longitudinal extent: 68°7'E to 97°25'E (29°18' difference)
- This creates time difference of about **2 hours** between east and west
- Sun rises about 2 hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh than in Gujarat
- This would cause confusion in railways, communication, etc.

### Solution - Standard Meridian:

- 82°30'E chosen as standard meridian
- Close to middle of India's longitudinal extent
- Same time followed throughout India
- Brings uniformity in time across the country

## Time Difference Example

**Question:** If it is 12:00 noon in London (GMT), what time is it in India?

**Answer:**

- $IST = GMT + 5:30$
- 12:00 noon + 5 hours 30 minutes
- = **5:30 PM in India**



## 8. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS & TERMS

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### Key Terms to Remember

- 1. Latitude:** Angular distance of a place north or south of Equator, measured in degrees.
- 2. Longitude:** Angular distance of a place east or west of Prime Meridian, measured in degrees.
- 3. Tropic of Cancer:** Imaginary line at  $23^{\circ}30'N$  latitude.
- 4. Equator:** Imaginary line at  $0^{\circ}$  latitude, divides Earth into Northern and Southern hemispheres.
- 5. Prime Meridian:**  $0^{\circ}$  longitude passing through Greenwich, London.
- 6. Standard Meridian:** Longitude used to determine standard time of a country.
- 7. Indian Standard Time (IST):** Standard time followed throughout India based on  $82^{\circ}30'E$  meridian.
- 8. Strait:** Narrow passage of water connecting two large water bodies.
- 9. Union Territory:** Administrative division governed directly by Central Government.

**10. Maritime Boundary:** Boundary in the sea between two countries.

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## 9. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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### Very Short Answer Questions (1 mark)

**Q1.** What is the total area of India?

**Answer:** 3.28 million sq km or 32,87,263 sq km

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**Q2.** What is India's rank by area in the world?

**Answer:** 7th largest country

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**Q3.** What is the latitudinal extent of India?

**Answer:** 8°4'N to 37°6'N

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**Q4.** Through which meridian is Indian Standard Time determined?

**Answer:** 82°30'E longitude (passing through Mirzapur, UP)

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**Q5.** Name the southernmost point of India.

**Answer:** Indira Point (Great Nicobar Island)

## Short Answer Questions (3 marks)

**Q6.** Why is the difference between the duration of day and night hardly felt at Kanyakumari but not so in Kashmir?

**Answer:**

- Kanyakumari is located near the **Equator** (closer to 8°4'N)
- Near the Equator, day and night are almost **equal throughout the year**
- Kashmir is located in the **north** (around 37°N), far from Equator
- In higher latitudes, the difference in day and night duration is **more pronounced**
- In summer, Kashmir has longer days; in winter, longer nights

**Conclusion:** The variation in day-night duration increases as we move away from the Equator.

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**Q7.** Name the group of islands lying in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**Answer:**

**Arabian Sea:**

- **Lakshadweep Islands**
- Located to the west of Kerala coast
- Capital: Kavaratti
- 36 islands, coral origin

**Bay of Bengal:**

- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

- Located in the east
  - Capital: Port Blair
  - 572 islands, volcanic origin
- 

**Q8.** The sun rises two hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh as compared to Gujarat in the west. But the watches show the same time. How does this happen?

**Answer:**

- There is a time difference of about **2 hours** between Arunachal Pradesh (east) and Gujarat (west)
  - This is due to India's longitudinal extent of  $29^{\circ}18'$  ( $68^{\circ}7'E$  to  $97^{\circ}25'E$ )
  - To avoid confusion, India has adopted **Indian Standard Time (IST)**
  - IST is based on  **$82^{\circ}30'E$  longitude** passing through Mirzapur (UP)
  - This time is followed **uniformly throughout India**
  - Therefore, despite sun rising earlier in Arunachal Pradesh, watches show same time everywhere
- 

**Q9.** Name the countries which are larger than India.

**Answer:**

Six countries are larger than India:

1. **Russia** - 17.1 million sq km (largest)

2. **Canada** - 9.9 million sq km
3. **USA** - 9.8 million sq km
4. **China** - 9.6 million sq km
5. **Brazil** - 8.5 million sq km
6. **Australia** - 7.7 million sq km

India is the 7th largest country with 3.28 million sq km area.

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**Q10.** Which island group of India lies to its south-east?

**Answer:**

**Andaman and Nicobar Islands** lie to the south-east of mainland India in the Bay of Bengal.

**Details:**

- Location: Bay of Bengal
- Total islands: 572
- Capital: Port Blair
- Contains India's southernmost point: Indira Point

## Long Answer Questions (5 marks)

**Q11.** Explain the significance of India's location.

**Answer:**

India's location is highly significant due to several factors:

### **1. CENTRAL POSITION:**

- India occupies **central position** in South Asia
- Acts as a **bridge between East and West Asia**
- Strategically located at the head of Indian Ocean

### **2. TRANS-INDIAN OCEAN ROUTES:**

- India lies on important **sea routes** connecting Europe, Africa, and East Asia
- Controls routes passing through **Suez Canal** to Southeast Asia
- Major advantage for trade and commerce

### **3. INDIAN OCEAN:**

- India has the **longest coastline** (7,516.6 km) in Indian Ocean region
- Indian Ocean named after India due to its commanding presence
- Strategic control over Indian Ocean trade routes

### **4. PENINSULAR PROJECTION:**

- India's peninsula projects into the Indian Ocean
- Divides ocean into **Bay of Bengal** (east) and **Arabian Sea** (west)
- Provides natural harbors for ports

### **5. CULTURAL EXCHANGE:**

- Strategic location facilitated **spread of Indian culture**

- Buddhism and Hinduism spread to Southeast Asia
- Trade brought cultural exchange with Arab world and Europe

## 6. MONSOON WINDS:

- Location between Tropic of Cancer and Equator
- Favorable for **monsoon winds**
- Ensures good rainfall for agriculture

**Conclusion:** India's strategic location has historically given it economic, political, and cultural advantages.

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**Q12.** Distinguish between the physical divisions of India with reference to their location.

**Answer:**

India has diverse physical features that can be divided into regions:

### 1. THE HIMALAYAS (NORTH):

- **Location:** Northern boundary of India
- Young fold mountains
- Highest mountain ranges in the world
- Separate India from rest of Asia

### 2. THE NORTHERN PLAINS (NORTH-CENTER):

- **Location:** Between Himalayas and Peninsular plateau
- Formed by Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra rivers
- Very fertile, agriculturally rich
- Densely populated

### 3. THE PENINSULAR PLATEAU (CENTRAL-SOUTH):

- **Location:** South of Northern Plains
- Triangular in shape
- Old, stable landmass
- Rich in minerals

#### 4. THE COASTAL PLAINS:

- **Western Coast:** Konkan, Malabar coast (narrow)
- **Eastern Coast:** Coromandel coast (wider)
- Fertile, good for agriculture and fishing

#### 5. THE ISLANDS:

- **Lakshadweep:** Arabian Sea (west)
- **Andaman & Nicobar:** Bay of Bengal (east)

Each physical division has unique characteristics and contributes to India's diversity.

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**Q13.** Write a note on the extent of India and its implications.

**Answer:**

#### EXTENT OF INDIA:

##### 1. AREA:

- Total area: **3.28 million sq km**
- 7th largest country in the world
- 2.4% of world's total geographical area

##### 2. LATITUDINAL EXTENT:

- 8°4'N to 37°6'N (29°2' difference)
- About 3,214 km from north to south

### **3. LONGITUDINAL EXTENT:**

- 68°7'E to 97°25'E (29°18' difference)
- About 2,933 km from west to east

### **IMPLICATIONS OF THIS EXTENT:**

#### **1. CLIMATIC DIVERSITY:**

- Large latitudinal extent creates diverse climates
- Tropical in south, temperate in north
- Kashmir has cold winters, Kerala is warm year-round

#### **2. TIME DIFFERENCE:**

- Longitudinal extent causes 2-hour time difference
- Sun rises earlier in east (Arunachal) than west (Gujarat)
- Hence need for Standard Time (IST)

#### **3. VEGETATION DIVERSITY:**

- Tropical forests in south and northeast
- Coniferous forests in north (Himalayas)
- Desert vegetation in northwest (Rajasthan)

#### **4. CULTURAL DIVERSITY:**

- Vast area supports diverse cultures, languages
- Unity in diversity

#### **5. ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES:**

- Large area requires federal system
- 28 states and 8 union territories

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**Q14.** Compare Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

## Answer:

Basis	Lakshadweep	Andaman & Nicobar
<b>Location</b>	Arabian Sea (West)	Bay of Bengal (East)
<b>Number</b>	36 islands	572 islands
<b>Area</b>	32 sq km (smallest UT)	8,249 sq km (larger)
<b>Origin</b>	Coral origin	Volcanic origin
<b>Capital</b>	Kavaratti	Port Blair
<b>Vegetation</b>	Coconut palms	Dense tropical forests
<b>Groups</b>	One group	Two groups (Andaman, Nicobar)
<b>Special Feature</b>	Coral reefs, smallest UT	Indira Point (southernmost), Barren Island (active volcano)
<b>Nearest State</b>	Kerala	West Bengal

## Similarities:

- Both are Union Territories
- Both are island groups
- Both have tourism potential
- Both have rich marine biodiversity

**Q15.** Why do we need a Standard Meridian for India?

**Answer:**

### **NEED FOR STANDARD MERIDIAN:**

#### **1. THE PROBLEM:**

- India's longitudinal extent: 68°7'E to 97°25'E
- Total difference: **29°18'** (approximately 30°)
- Earth rotates 360° in 24 hours = 15° per hour
- So 30° difference = **2 hours time difference**
- Sun would rise 2 hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh than in Gujarat

#### **2. PROBLEMS WITHOUT STANDARD TIME:**

- **Railways:** Different time at each station would cause confusion
- **Communication:** TV, radio broadcasts would be different
- **Administration:** Government work timings would vary
- **Daily Life:** Schools, offices would open at different times
- Complete chaos in scheduling

#### **3. SOLUTION - STANDARD MERIDIAN:**

- India adopted **82°30'E** as Standard Meridian
- Passes through **Mirzapur** (Uttar Pradesh)
- Close to the middle of India's longitudinal extent
- All of India follows **same time** based on this meridian

#### **4. BENEFITS:**

- **Uniformity:** Same time throughout country
- **Convenience:** Easy coordination of activities
- **Administration:** Simplified governance
- **Transport:** Easy railway, flight scheduling

- **Communication:** Uniform broadcasting

#### 5. INDIAN STANDARD TIME (IST):

- $IST = GMT + 5:30$
- Followed throughout India
- Brings order and uniformity

**Conclusion:** Standard Meridian is essential for maintaining uniformity and avoiding confusion in a country with large longitudinal extent.



## 10. EXAM PREPARATION GUIDE

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### High Priority Topics

- ✨ India's size (area, rank)
- ✨ Latitudinal and Longitudinal extent
- ✨ India's location and significance
- ✨ Neighbouring countries (7 land + 2 water)
- ✨ States and Union Territories (28 + 8)
- ✨ Island groups (Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar)
- ✨ Indian Standard Time (IST) and its need
- ✨ Tropic of Cancer (states it passes through)
- ✨ Comparison: Andaman & Nicobar vs Lakshadweep
- ✨ Important points: Indira Point, Palk Strait, etc.

## EXAM STRATEGY

### Common Question Patterns:

#### 1. Map-based questions (5 marks)

- Mark neighbouring countries
- Mark water bodies
- Mark Tropic of Cancer
- Mark Standard Meridian
- Mark island groups

#### 2. Comparison questions (3-5 marks)

- Lakshadweep vs Andaman & Nicobar
- State vs Union Territory

#### 3. Explain significance (5 marks)

- India's location
- Standard Meridian
- Size and extent

#### 4. Short answers (1-3 marks)

- Numerical facts (area, extent)
- Names of neighbours, capitals
- Important latitudes, longitudes



## QUICK REVISION - Numbers to Remember

### AREA & RANK:

- Area: 3.28 million sq km (32,87,263 sq km)
- World rank: 7th
- World's area: 2.4%

### EXTENT:

- Latitude: 8°4'N to 37°6'N
- Longitude: 68°7'E to 97°25'E
- North-South: 3,214 km
- East-West: 2,933 km

### BOUNDARIES:

- Land boundary: 15,200 km
- Coastline: 7,516.6 km
- Land neighbours: 7
- Water neighbours: 2

### ADMINISTRATIVE:

- States: 28
- Union Territories: 8

### ISLANDS:

- Lakshadweep: 36 islands, 32 sq km
- Andaman & Nicobar: 572 islands, 8,249 sq km

### **TIME:**

- **Standard Meridian: 82°30'E**
- **IST = GMT + 5:30**

### **SPECIAL LINES:**

- **Tropic of Cancer: 23°30'N (passes through 8 states)**

### **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

- **✗** Confusing number of states (28) and UTs (8)
- **✗** Mixing up Lakshadweep (west) and Andaman & Nicobar (east)
- **✗** Wrong neighbours - India does NOT border Tajikistan
- **✗** Forgetting longest border is with Bangladesh (4,096 km), not Pakistan
- **✗** Saying India is in Southern Hemisphere (it's Northern)
- **✗** Wrong Standard Meridian (82°30'E, not 82°E)
- **✗** Confusing coral (Lakshadweep) with volcanic (Andaman & Nicobar)
- **✗** Forgetting to mention Mirzapur when asked about Standard Meridian

## Key Mnemonics

### 7 Land Neighbours (clockwise) - "PC NB MB":

- **P**akistan (NW)
- **C**hina (N)
- **N**epal (N)
- **B**hutan (N)
- **M**yanmar (NE)
- **B**angladesh (E)
- (Afghanistan - through POK)

### 2 Water Neighbours - "SM":

- **S**ri Lanka (Palk Strait)
- **M**aldives (Sea)

### Tropic of Cancer states (8) - "GRMC-JWBM":

- **G**ujarat
- **R**ajasthan
- **M**adhya Pradesh
- **C**hhattisgarh
- **J**harkhand
- **W**est Bengal
- **T**ripura
- **M**izoram

### Islands - "LA":

- **L**akshadweep - Left (West) in Arabian Sea
- **A**ndaman - Aage (East) in Bay of Bengal

## Writing Tips

- Always write full forms: IST (Indian Standard Time), GMT (Greenwich Mean Time)
- Use degrees properly:  $82^{\circ}30'E$ , not just 82
- Mention specific examples: Mirzapur for Standard Meridian, Port Blair for Andaman capital
- For comparison questions, make proper tables
- For significance questions, write in points with headings
- Always conclude long answers
- Mention numbers accurately (area, extent, etc.)

## Map Work Tips

**Practice marking these on India map:**

1. All 7 land neighbours
2. 2 water neighbours (Sri Lanka, Maldives)
3. Major water bodies (Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean)
4. Tropic of Cancer line
5. Standard Meridian ( $82^{\circ}30'E$ )
6. Both island groups
7. Important straits (Palk Strait, Gulf of Mannar)
8. Indira Point (southernmost)

## Study Material Information

This comprehensive study material on **India: Size and Location** (Chapter 1, Class 9 Geography) covers India's area, extent, location, neighbours, islands, and IST as per the latest CBSE curriculum. It includes detailed explanations, comparisons, and practice questions for thorough exam preparation.

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*- Yi-Fu Tuan*

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