

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

Topographical maps are large scale map of a region and they provide the graphical portrayal of features present on the surface of the earth. They provide preliminary information about the terrain and thus useful for works related to geology, engineering, forestry, military etc. The Topographical maps for our country are prepared by Survey of India. To identify a map of a particular area a numbering system based on “India and Adjacent Countries Series of Maps” is adopted. The topographical maps (also known as toposheets) are available on five different scales the details are as follows:

- 1) **1:1M Map** - Each 1:1M map covers an area of 4° latitudes and 4° longitudes. Its number is obtained by locating the point of interest on the Key map or Index map. For Indian region the number of 1:1M map can be between 40 and 100.
- 2) **1:250,000 Map** - Each 1:250,000 map covers an area of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$. Its number can be calculated by dividing 1:1M map into 16 parts by drawing 4 vertical and 4 horizontal lines at 1° interval. All the 16 blocks are numbered from 'A' to 'P' starting from left top block in the downward direction. Each 1:250,000 map is identified by an index no and an alphabet between 'A' and 'P'.
- 3) **1:125,000 Map** - This covers an area of $30' \times 30'$. Its number can be obtained by dividing the 1:250,000 Map into 4 equal parts. The top left part is numbered as 'NW' top right as 'NE' and bottom left as 'SW' and bottom right as 'SE'. Each 1:125,000 map is identified by an index number, an alphabet (A-P) and directional letters (NE, NW, SE, SW).
- 4) **1:50,000 Map** - This map covers an area of $15' \times 15'$. Its number can be calculated by dividing 1:250,000 map into 16 parts by drawing 4 vertical and 4 horizontal lines at $15'$ interval. All the 16 blocks are numbered from 1 to 16 starting from left top block in the downward direction. Each 1:50,000 map is identified by an index number, an alphabet (A-P) and a number (1-16).
- 5) **1:25,000 Map** - This covers an area of $7'30'' \times 7'30''$. Its number can be obtained by dividing the 1:50,000 Map into 4 equal parts. The top left part is numbered as 'NW' top right as 'NE' and bottom left as 'SW' and bottom right as 'SE'. Each 1:25,000 map is identified by an index number, an alphabet (A-P), number (1-16) and directional letters (NE, NW, SE, SW).