CHAPTER II

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF INDIA AND ARAB OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES
In the first chapter the various methods of economic co-operation and the requirements to visualise economic co-operation between participating countries are discussed. In this chapter it is proposed to discuss the physical features of India and Arab oil exporting countries among whom possibilities of co-operation are sought to know. The selected Arab Oil Exporting Countries are, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. The reason for choosing these Arab Countries is that all they are the exporters of oil.

(i) Geographical Area of India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries:

The countries covered in this study are India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries. This region comprises a group of Asian countries, including India, which is situated in the Indian sub-continent and some selected Arab countries, which are the chief producers and exporters of crude oil. Among the Arab Oil Exporting Countries, Iraq is situated in the low land of Tigris and Euphrates while the other Arab Oil Exporting

countries viz. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) are situated in the Arabian Peninsula. India—a part of Indian sub-continent—is located in the South Central Asia, while all the Arab Oil Exporting countries are situated in the near Eastern part of Asia. The gross surface land area of this Indo-Arab region is 672,5669 Sq.Kms. (See Table 2.1). And nearly half of the total area of this region is accounted for by the single mass

remaining

of India. The other half is divided into a number of Arab Oil Exporting Countries, which are separated from the Indian subcontinent by the Arabian Sea. The Arab Oil exporting countries are also known as the "Gulf countries". These countries are bounded by the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba on the West,

by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on the east,

and by the Gulf of Aden on the south. However, the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian subcontinent are connected by the sea route of Arabian Sea, which is laying between the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian Sub-continent. The picture will be more clear only with the examination of the physical situations of these two different territories.

(a) **Indian sub-continent**

The Indian subcontinent comprises the countries of Pakistan, Indian, Himalayan States of Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Ceylon. The large part of the Indian subcontinent is occupied by a single country i.e. India. Since 1947 India\(^1\) is known as the Republic of India and has total area of 3287590 sq.kms. (See Table 2.1). The total area of Indian Republic is nearly equal to the total area of all the Arab Oil Exporting Countries covered by this study (See Table 2.1). The Indian Republic is a union of 22 states and nine union territories.\(^2\)

It is situated in the Indian subcontinent and known as the seventh largest country in the world. India is separated from the rest of Asia, because of the surrounding of mountains and sea. On the north India is bounded by Himalayas and some other lofty mountains i.e. Muzdagh, Ata, Aghil and Kunlun mountains. On the east India is bounded by south-eastern portion of Zaskar mountains. In the north India is bounded by China, Nepal, and Bhutan. On the east India is separated from Bhutan by a series of mountain ranges. The Indian states

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of west Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are bounded by Bangladesh in the eastern part. The northwestern side is bounded by Afghanistan and Pakistan. India's half of the area is triangular shaped peninsula (1300 mile wide at its base). The triangular part projects into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian sea on the west. India has a land frontier of about 15200 kms, and a coast line of about 6100 Kms. The Gulf of Manar and the strait separates India from Shrilanka. The Andman and Nicobar Islands situated in the Bay of Bengal, and Lokshadweep in the Arabian Sea are the parts of the Indian territory. The Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf as a part of Arabian Sea separates India from the Arab Oil Exporting Countries.

The Indian mainland can be classified into four regions: i) the great mountain zone, ii) the Indus plain region, iii) the desert region, and iv) Southern Peninsula.

The Himalayan mountain region covers three parallel ranges with large plateaus and valleys. Among these the Kashmir and Kulu Valleys are fertile. The Ganga and the Indus plain area is about 2400 kms long and 240 to 320 km. broad. This plain area is formed by the basin of three

2. Ibid.,
3. Ibid.,
4. Ibid.,
different rivers, the Indu, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra, are the main rivers of this basin. This area is known as the world’s greatest stretches of flat alluvium. The desert area is divided into two parts i.e. the great desert and the little desert. The great desert covers the area of Rajasthan - Sindh frontier and the little desert covers the area from Luni river to the northern wastes. The absolutely sterile area is situated between the great desert and little desert. The southern peninsula is marked off from the plains of the Ganga and the Indus by a mass of mountain and hill ranges. The Aravali, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikala and Ajanta are the important mountains of this region.

The Indian rivers comprise: i) the Himalayan rivers, ii) Deccan rivers, iii) Coastal rivers and iv) rivers of the Inland drainage basin. The Himalayan rivers generally flow throughout the year. The Deccan rivers generally fluctuate in volume. The coastal rivers are short in length and have limited catchment areas. And the rivers of the inland drainage are few. The Ganga basin is largest in India and receives water of one quarter of the total area of the country. The Bhagirathi and Alakananda are the two main headwaters of the Ganga. The Ganga is joined

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1. India, a Reference Annual, 1981, Publication Division, New Delhi, 1980.
by number of Himalayan rivers, important of these are the Yamuna, Ghaghra, Gandak and Kosi. The north flowing rivers are the Chambal, Betwa and Sone. The Godavari is second largest river basin in India and it covers ten percent of India's total area. The Krishna and Mahanadi are also large river basins in India. The Narmada in the uplands of Deccan. And covering in the far south are of about the same size. Therefore most of the land is drained by the above mentioned rivers of the country.

(b) Arab Oil Exporting Countries:

The Arab Oil Exporting Countries comprise Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Geographically all these Arab Oil Exporting Countries are situated in the Near East Asia. The region of the Near East Asia is extending from the Black Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Generally this area is called the "Land of Five Seas". Because it is bordered by the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, the Caspian, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. The term "Middle East" is also applied to this area.

Politically the region near East Asia covers a number of countries. And structurally this region is divided into four sub-divisions. Iraq, one of the Arab Oil Exporting country is situated in the low-land of the Tigris and Euphrates. While the other Arab Oil Exporting Countries are situated in the Arabian plateau. Arabia (the Persian name in Arbasta) a peninsula is situated in the Near East Asia. It includes the territory laying between the Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aqaba on the west, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on the east, and the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea on the south. Politically Arabia includes a number of independent countries, but it includes only seven oil producing and exporting countries i.e. Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. A large part of Arabian Peninsula is under the control of Saudi Arabia (See Table 2.1). And Iraq is the next larger country among the Arab Oil Exporting Countries. Iraq is an Arab Oil Exporting Country, which is not situated in Arabia, but having common boundaries with the countries situated in Arabia, is included in the Arab Oil Exporting Countries. Iraq is bounded by Kuwait on the south and on South-west by Saudi Arabia. Also there exists a natural zone between Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Therefore these Arab Oil
Exporting Countries are situated in the Near East Asia offers a solid block of countries with their common boundaries. Hence for drawing conclusions it would be of great help to study the geographical area of each country under this peninsula.

Bahrain:

Bahrain, known as the state of Bahrain since 1971. Formerly it was known as the Awal or Awan, while the name Bahrain was applied to Hassa. Before independence in 1971, it was under the British protection. Bahrain is a recent member of (1971) the United Nations organisation and also newly joined with the Arab League. It is an Island in the Gulf of Bahrain occupying the angle between Hassa coast of Saudi Arabia and the Qatar peninsula. The total surface area is 622 Sq.Kms (See Table No.1). It is a group of thirty Islands. While Bahrain itself is a principal island (having 30 mile long and 10 mile wide) The other important islands are the Maharraq, Nabi Talih, Ummunnasan, Havar, and Sitra. Bahrain, lying north and south is a low flat expanse of sand with some small green areas in desert. Therefore the largest portion of the state

2. Ibid.
is desert. Manama is the capital of the state and also an important port and airport, which is generally referred to as ‘Bahrain’ and extends 3 miles along the sea. Muhrraq, another important town and airport, and it is the capital of an island of the same name. Isa is an important town where 12,000 Bahrainis are living. Fresh water in Bahrain is obtained from springs, which are fed by rains, fell on the Persian mountains. Bahrain is the birthplace of the Gulf Oil Industry. Oil production was started in early 1932. Crude oil is limited in Bahrain but natural gas is abundant.

Iraq:

Iraq, or Irak, is known as Republic of Iraq since 1932. It has total area of 43,4924 sq.kms (See Table No.1). The Republic is bounded by Turkey on the north. On the east it is bounded by Iran. On south it is bounded by Kuwait and Persian Gulf. The south-west side is bounded by Saudi Arabia and Jordan. And on the north-west it is bounded by Syria. There also exists a neutral zone between Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The old name of Iraq was Mesopotamia, a land between the rivers. The Tigris and Euphrates are the main rivers and they merge at their lower course. Therefore, Iraq is a riverain lowland of Mesopotamia. And it forms a

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part of the fertile crescent, which extends from Persian Gulf to Israel. The riverain lowland is sub-divided into two parts i.e. 1) in the northwestern part the rivers flow in valleys below the level of the surrounding country. In this part the Euphrates flow in a narrow steep-sided valley and the Tigris receives most of its tributaries from the Zagros mountains, II) in the lower basin the rivers are flowing above the level of the plain.

The capital of the country is Baghdad, which is situated at the point where the Tigris and Euphrates most nearly approach each other. Basra, the port is the chief commercial centre. Ummagasa is a new port developed below the shatt-el-Arab.

Kuwait:

Kuwait, is known as the state of Kuwait, since 1961 it has total area of 17818 sq.kms. (See table No.1). The name of the country is derived from the Arabic diminutive of the word "Kut", meaning fort. The state is situated on north-western extreme of Persian Gulf and it is on the Indian searoute to Iraq. Kuwait is most northerly, the largest and most populous of the Arab Sheikdoms and

communities of the area. The state is bounded on the east by the Persian Gulf. On the north and west it is bounded by Iraq. On the southwest it is bounded by Saudi Arabia. To the south, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia jointly own the neutral zone, which also borders the Gulf. The state roughly rectangular in shape, 130 miles east to west and with a maximum north-south dimension of about 115 miles.\(^1\) The neutral zone covers an area of about 2000 sq.miles.\(^2\) The state includes a number of off-shore islands, the larger of which are Bubiyan, Failakha and Warban. Only Failakh is permanently inhabited. Kuwait bay is the only prominent coastal feature. It indents the shoreline about 25 miles\(^3\) and provides protection to the port of Kuwait. Half the shoreline of the state lies on the Kuwait bay. The large portion of the state is desert and climate is hot and humid. Al-Kuwait or Kuwait is a modern city and is the capital of the state. Mina is the important part of the country. The other important cities are the Ahmadi and Al-Ahmadi.


\(^{3}\) *Ibid.*
The entire area of the state is semi-arid. Therefore there are no springs or streams on the surface. The major physical problem is the scarcity of fresh water. The oil production had started since 1934.

Oman:

Oman¹ is officially known as the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman since 1957, has total area of 212457 sq.kms (See Table No.1). The Muscat is a capital city of the Sultanate and also a chief port. The Sultanate is situated on the southeastern coast of Arabian peninsula. Oman has a costline of nearly 1000 miles.² On the west the Sultanate is bounded by Saudi Arabia. On the east it is bounded by Arabian Sea. On the north the country is bounded by the Trucial States of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. And on the south the country is bounded by the Yemen. The Musandam a part of the Sultanate is situated on the south of the Homery Sea Coast, and therefore it is separated from the mainland of the Sultanate. The Fujara a State of United Arab Emirates and Dubai, Rasal and Khaima are situated between the mainland of the Muscat and Oman Sultanate and the Musandam (a

2. Ibid.,
part of Muscat and Oman Sultanate). The Sultanate has both fertile plains and desert land. The annual rainfall is very scanty. The water of rainfall is utilised for irrigation purposes with the system of 'Alaz'. The plainland area is situated along the north coast, which is about 10 miles wide and backed by the 'Jabal Akhdar range' (green mountains). Beyond this there is a plateau of about 1000 ft. in height. The most fertile part of the Sultanate is 'Batinah'. Batinah means a land surrounded by mountains. The other meaning of Batinah is 'heart'. Therefore Batinah is the heart land of the Sultanate. And it is on the north of Muscat and a plateau of 350 kms, situated between the sea and mountains. Dhofar is another fertile part of the Sultanate. The oil was discovered recently in 1964.

**Qatar:**

Qatar, is known as Sheikdom of Qatar since 1971, has total area of 11000 sq.kms (See Table No.1). The Sheikdom is situated on the Western shores of the Arabian Gulf. Its greatest width is fiftyfive miles. The Sheikdom consists of some islands, and the important among these is the 'Halool'. The capital of the country is Doha or

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2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
Bida, which is situated on the eastern shore. The Sheikdom is bounded by Saudi Arabia on the west. Abu Dhabi lies on the east. On the north it is bounded by Bahrain. And on the south the Sheikdom is bounded by the Persian Gulf. Rainfall is very rare in the country and the average rainfall is 4.5 milimetre. Qatar is largely barren. Fishing and work in oil industry support most of the population. The important towns are Khor, which is 29 miles² from Doha and is a trade and shipping centre. Assu Barra is an ancient town. Dhukhan and Mussiyd are important oil centres.

**Saudi Arabia:**

Saudi Arabia,³ is known as kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has total area of 2,149,690 sq.kms. (See Table No.1). Saudi Arabia accounts for the greater part of the Arabian peninsula. On the west the kingdom is bounded by the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea. On the east it is bounded by the Persian Gulf. On the north it is bounded by Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait and two natural zones. On the south the Yemen and the great desert 'Rub-Al-Khali' separates Saudi Arabia

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2. Ibid.

from Adam Protectorate. The kingdom has undefined boundaries with the Muscat and Oman, the trucial coast and Qatar.

The kingdom is nearly all desert, except some coastal areas inhabited by Arabs. Therefore there is no river system in the country, but it is having a series of 'Wadis' running into the desert from the hills towards the Red sea. These Wadis are occasionally run with water after severe storms occur in the hills, but normally it is having water under the sand. In recent days the irrigation projects have reclaimed many acres of desert at Al-Kharj South east of Riyadh.

The Mecca and Madina are the important religious centres and these are known as the Hejaz. The chief port is Jedda linked with Mecca by road and receiving pilgrims from India and Indonesia by steamers. The Najd a vast interior part is a great red sand stone desert with many oases which form links along many and caravan routes, connects important centres as Jauf, Hail, and Riyadh the capital of South Arabia. The Oil industry dominates the economy and located in the northeast along the Persian Gulf. The oil is supplied by pipeline to Sidran and Lebanon. The oil refineries are located at Ras Janura and on Bahrain in the Persian Gulf.
United Arab Emirates:

United Arab Emirates\(^1\) is known since 1971, has total area of 83600 sq.kms (See Table 2.1). Previously it was known as the trucial Oman or Trucial States. The term trucial means that the Sheiks ruling the seven constituent petty states of Trucial Oman are bound by truces concluded with Britain in 1820 and by an agreement made in 1892 not to engage in relation with other countries.

The Arabian name of the United Arab Emirates is Al Emirate, Al Arabia, or Al Muthad. The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven Emirates. It consists Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Rasal-Khaima, Ajaman, Ummal Quaiwain, and Fujairah. The federation of these states is known as United Arab Emirates since 1971. But, before the formation of federation these states did exist and in those days they had their own governments. In those days they were called Trucial Oman or Trucial States. The total area of the Emirate is 83600 sq.kms. (See Table 2.1). The Emirate is situated along the trucial coast, a section of the Persian Gulf littoral between Qatar and Oman. All these seven Emirates have

\(^1\) The Columbia Encyclopaedia, 1968.
a sea-shore. But some Emirates have enclaves surrounded by the states of one or more Sheiks. Among the seven the six Emirates are having together a long seashore. The United Arab Emirates is bounded on the west by the Gulf of Iran or the Gulf of Arabiasian. On the east it is bounded by the Oman Sultanate, on the south it is bounded by Saudi Arabia. And on the north the Musandam a part of Oman Sultanate is situated. Among these seven the six Emirates are situated from south to north as in order of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Ummal Quaiwain and Rasal-Khaima. And the seventh Emirate i.e. Fujairah is situated on the northeast side of Oman Gulf. The important physical features of all the Emirates are as follows; Abu Dhabi and Dubai are economically most important as compared to other Emirates. Abu Dhabi is largest in area (67370 sq. kms.). The largest portion of Abu Dhabi is desert and it is known as the most barren region in the world. The fertile land is situated in the area of Liwa and Buraimi Oases. Which help providing subsistence farming by having reasonable water supply. Oil production in Abu Dhabi was started in 1953.

Dubai is the second largest of the Emirates. Its total area is 3900 sq.kms. The oil production was started in 1966 on the offshore fields known as Al-Fateh. Therefore Dubai has occupied the sixth largest position among the oil exporting countries of the world. The Emirates had even a sound foundation before the discovery of oil. Dubai is the most thickly populated area in the United Arab Emirates.

Sharjah is the third in size and population after Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Its total area is 2600 sq.kms. Khomphkan Kalas and Dibba are the three settlements of Sharjah. Sharjah is situated on the Bathina shore. With the oil discovery the Emirate has started its progress in trade, industry and agriculture.

Rasal Khaima is the most fertile Emirate among the other Emirates. It is situated at the most northern of other Emirates. Its total area is 1700 sq.kms. The Emirate is having more rainfall as compared to other Emirates.

Ajman is the smallest of seven Emirates, having an area of only 250 sq.kms. Ajman being a non-oil producing Emirate is slightly less developed than the other Emirates. But Manama and Masur are its most fertile ports. The Masqat receives plenty of rains.

Unmal Quaiwain is the sixth Emirate, having an area of 800 sq.kms. is slightly bigger than the Ajman Emirate. Falla II Mu Allah are its fertile ports. Fishing and trade area the main occupations of the people.

2. Ibid., 3. Ibid., 4. Ibid.,
Fujairah is the seventh Emirate and is separated from the other Emirates by the Hajar mountains. Its total area is 1200 sq.kms.  

(ii) Requirements for Economic Co-operation:

In the above paragraphs we have discussed about the geographical features of India and the Arab Oil Exporting Countries. Therefore from this discussion it is clear that the group of these countries together form a large size. The larger area of this region larger is the market. The large market enables them to adopt effective economic co-operation between themselves through increase of imports and exports. But these countries are geographically separated from each other. The Arabian Sea separates India from the rest of the Arab Oil Exporting Countries. It is because India is situated in the Indian subcontinent, while the Arab Oil Exporting Countries are situated in the Near East Asia. Therefore although India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries are situated in Asia, but the Arabian Sea laying between Arabia and Indian subcontinent separates these countries. Thus creating a geographical discontinuity between these two regions. Such geographical discontinuity does not help them to maintain

closer contracts between themselves, which is a basic requisite for the formation of higher degree economic interpretation i.e. free trade area, customs union, common market and an economic union between themselves. But these two regions are separated from each other by the Arabian Sea; are linked by navigational routes. These navigational routes help them to mention closer links between themselves. Therefore with these sea routes these countries can increase imports and exports between themselves, which are essential for increasing economic co-operation between themselves.

Transfer of goods by navigation consumes longer time compared to the transfer of goods by surface land routes. Therefore these countries cannot depend more on sea routes for the mobility of goods between themselves. It does not help them to increase trade between themselves.

At the same time we cannot find the geographical proximity between India and Arab oil exporting countries because these countries are not closely situated. India is situated at one side of the Arabian sea, while the Arab oil exporting countries are situated on the other side of the Arabian Sea. On the other hand
we can find more geographical closeness between the Arab Oil Exporting Countries. The Arab Oil Exporting Countries are situated in the Near East Asia and therefore these countries are linked with their boundaries.

The geographical contiguity of the Arab oil exporting countries help them in reducing the transport cost, which is required in economic integration for the transfer of goods between themselves. Thus geographical nearness of these countries is useful to increase international trade between them. In addition to geographical contiguity among the Arab oil exporting countries we can find more closeness among these countries on account of their common following of Islam. All these Arab Oil Exporting Countries are Muslim countries. With microscopic communities of other faiths the Arab Oil Exporting Countries are culturally related to each other. But we find cultural differences between India and the group of Arab Oil exporting countries. Therefore the Arab Oil exporting Countries form a more solid block of countries. While the cultural differences between India and these Arab Oil Exporting Countries do not help them to form a more solid block of countries. At the same time these Arab Countries are brought together through the various common projects taken by these countries. Out of these seven Arab Oil Exporting
Countries six countries are the members of the organisation of Arab Oil Exporting Countries (OAPEC). Through which these countries are trying to promote their industrial development. The establishment of special agencies and institutions under Joint Arab auspices like the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFSED), Arab Bank for Economic Development, Arab League, Council of Arab Economic Unity etc. enables them to increase sentiments of Arab solidarity among themselves.

Therefore the geographical contiguity between India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries is disturbed because of Arabian Sea, while the common geographical boundaries and road communications between Arab Oil Exporting Countries enables them to come together.

(iii) Size of Population of India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries:

The size of total population of this Indo-Arab region makes it possible to adopt economic co-operation. The total population of India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries in 1977 was 571.1 million. (See
Table 2.1). But the distribution of population among India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries is uneven. According to the population of this Indo-Arab region the big country like India has accounted more than 96 percent of the total population of the region and the remaining population is divided among the seven Arab Oil Exporting Countries. Therefore all the Arab Oil Exporting Countries are very small in respect of population. Among Arab Oil Exporting Countries Bahrain accounted only 0.04 percent of the total population of Indo-Arab region, while Iraq accounted 2.1 percent, Kuwait 0.17 percent, Saudi Arabia 1.4 percent, Oman 0.13 percent, Qatar 0.03 percent and United Arab Emirates 0.031 percent respectively (See Table 2.1). In this respect the Arab Countries like Iraq and Saudi Arabia are having more than 2 percent and 1 percent shares in total population of Indo-Arab region. The other Arab Oil Exporting Countries accounted less than 1 percent to total population of the region. Therefore the Indo-Arab region comprises the most populous country like India as well as less populous
countries like Babraasia, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

The uneven distribution of population among India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries shows less possibility for the adoption of high degree forms of economic integration. But the large size of the population of the Indo-Arab region as a whole is an incentive for the adoption of economic co-operation. Although the small size of population of the Arab Oil Exporting Countries may not favour participation in economic co-operation with India, the high per capita income of most of these Countries is a great incentive for the Arab Oil Exporting Countries to adopt economic co-operation with Arab Oil Exporting Countries.

iv) Per Capita Income:

The per capita income of all the Arab Oil Exporting Countries is quite high. Therefore the high per capita income of most of the Arab Oil Exporting Countries makes possible to adopt economic co-operation between India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries. Because the high per capita incomes of these countries enable them to import more of consumers and capital goods. All these are the important markets of India. Even the smallest importer in this group, Qatar, may have bought something like
370 million of goods from all over the world in 1975. In this respect the Arab Countries like United Arab Emirates and Kuwait stand first and second in the ranking of per capita incomes of the countries in the world in 1977 (See Table 2.4).

The above discussion reveals that the geographical discontinuity, uneven distribution of population and disimilarities in per capita incomes of India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries do not favour the idea of any high degree form of economic integration. But all these conditions enable these countries to adopt economic co-operation as a first step towards increasing economic interdependence among them. In this respect it is necessary to discuss the political and cultural differences between India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries. Because the political and cultural differences between independent nations are the major obstacles for the adoption of high degree form of economic integration between themselves.

v) Political and Cultural Differences:

To increase economic co-operation between participating countries it is not necessary to have more similarities in political and cultural fields. It means

for the adoption of different methods of economic co-operation at needs at least minimum of political and cultural differences between the participating countries. From this point of view we find more similarities in respect of political and cultural fields among the Arab Oil Exporting Countries. All the Arab Oil Exporting Countries are Muslim countries where Islam is a major factor which influences directly or indirectly in their domestic and international policies. At the same time the growing strength of pan-Arab sentiments is the ethnic factor which binds together all the Arab Oil Exporting Countries. Therefore, this type of political and cultural atmosphere prevailing among Arab Oil Exporting Countries is more favourable for the adoption of any high degree economic integration between themselves. But between India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries there is a great diversity and contrast. However, the atmosphere of cultural differences prevailing in India and Arab Oil Exporting Countries is suitable for enhancing economic co-operation between themselves.

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