

## Locator / Grid Locator / Location indicator

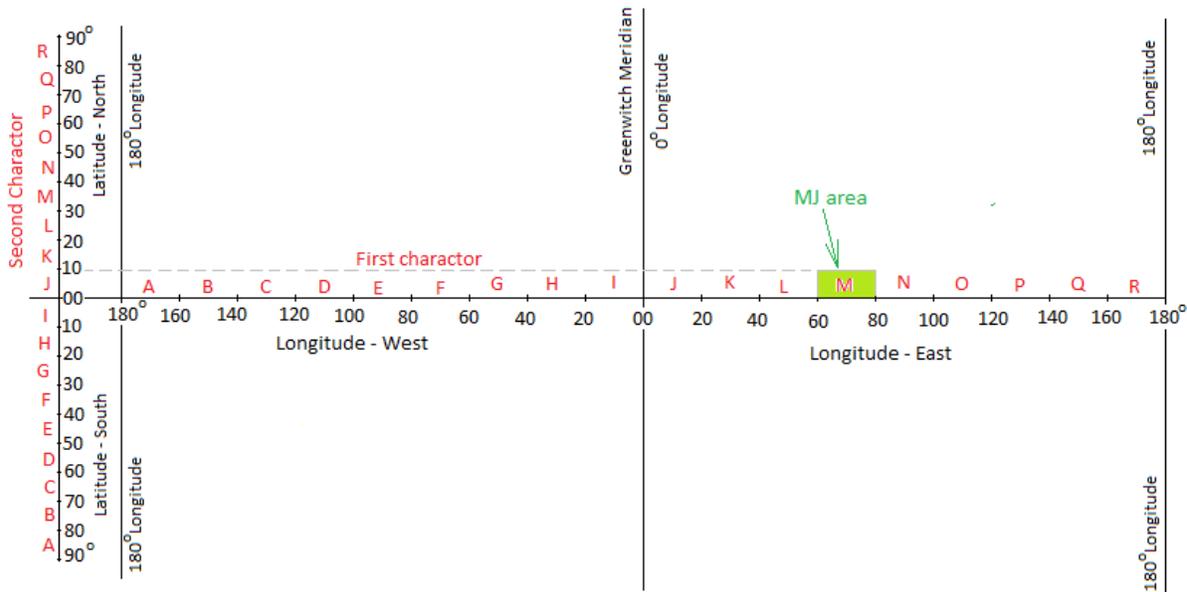
by 4S7VJ

Whole world is divided into 18,662,400 zones according to a special system. Each zone represents by a symbol having six characters. ( Example:- MJ96XW ) Those zones are approximately rectangular shape having 5 minutes (  $00^0 05' 00''$  ) of length ( 5 nautical miles ) along latitudes ( East – West ) and 2.5 minutes (  $00^0 02' 30''$  ) width ( 2.5 nautical miles ) along longitudes ( North – South ).

Dividing system:-

First Character:- Starting from  $180^0$  W and ending at  $180^0$  E along the Equator divided into 18 parts having  $20^0$  long, each part named with a letter from 'A' to 'R'. For example, 'M' represents  $60^0$  E to  $80^0$  E .

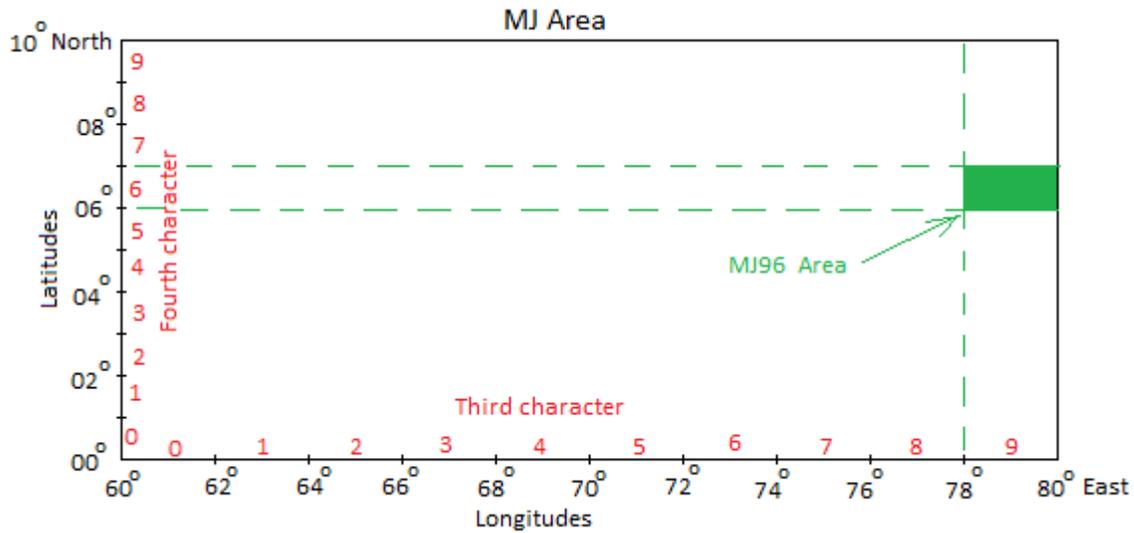
Second Character:- Starting from South pole (  $90^0$  S ) and ending at North Pole (  $90^0$  N ). Each Longitude divided into 18 parts having a length of  $10^0$  . Each portion named with a letter 'A' to 'R' ( 'A' represents  $90^0$  S to  $80^0$  S ). There are  $18 \times 18 = 324$  zones represents the first and second characters. ( AA, AB, ...AR, BA, BB,...BR, .....RA, RB, ....RR ). In the first diagram, hi-lighted area is 'MJ' area. A portion in the Western part of Sri Lanka is covered by 'MJ' zone.



3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Characters:-

Each zone mentioned above is again divided into 100 parts. The distance along the latitude is divided into 10 equal parts having  $2^0$  each, represents by a character from '0' to '9'. Same way it is divided into 10 parts along the longitude having  $1^0$  in length, also named from '0' to '9'.

Ten areas in the bottom strip named as 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09 and the next line is 10, 11, .....,19 and the 10<sup>th</sup> strip (top strip) is 91, 92, 93, .... ,99 . It is shown in the second diagram.



5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Characters

Each zone mentioned above is divided again into 576 small areas. The 2 degree distance along the latitude is divided into 24 equal parts having 5' (5 minutes) ( 00° : 05' : 00'' ) each, represents by a character from A to X. Same way it is divided into 24 parts along the longitude having 2' 30'' in length, also named from A to X.

Total number of zones = 24 x 24 = 576, represents by AA, AB,..., BA,BB, ..., XA, XB,..., XX

Therefore the total number of zones on the surface of the Earth = 324 x 100 x 576 = 18,662,400. The first portion AA00AA represents the South pole and the last portion RR99XX is represents the North pole.

