Complete the text on India. Fill in the blanks from the word list on the right. There are three words you will not need.

India is the most important country in southern Asia. With a ________ of 3.2 million square kilometres it is the seventh-largest country in the world. It is made up of the Indian ________ and parts of the Asian mainland. 1.3 billion people live in India, making it the second most ________ country in the world after China.

The capital is New Delhi but the largest city in India is Mumbai (formerly Bombay). Other big cities are Calcutta, Madras and Bangalore.

India was a ________ British colony, which became independent in 1947. Since then it has been a federal republic of consisting of 28 states.

Landscapes and Climate

India consists of four major geographical regions:

1. The Eastern and Western Ghats are mountain ranges that rise up to a ________ of 1,500 metres and extend along the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
2. Between these two mountain ranges lies the Deccan Plateau.
3. The great river ________ of the Ganges and Indus are among the most ________ populated part of the country.
4. To the north India borders on the highest mountain range in the world – the Himalayas.

India’s climate is dominated by the monsoon – winds that blow from the Indian Ocean to the subcontinent and bring a lot of rain from May to September.
Population

Although population has been slowing about 15 million Indians are still born every year. Life is about 68 years. 70 per cent of India’s population lives in areas. Though living conditions in many areas have improved, many people are still poor. One third of the country’s population lives on or below the line.

Religion

The main religions in India are Hindu (80 %), Muslim (13.4 %), Christian (2.3 %) and Sikh (1.8 %). English is the most important language for communication, but the language is Hindi. There are 14 other languages. 40 % of the population are - they can’t read or write.

Economy

India is the world’s fifth largest economy. More than half of the land is used for. More than two thirds of India's population depend on the land to make a living. The most important are rice, wheat, sugar cane, tea, cotton, and jute. India also produces other raw like coal, iron ore and bauxite. is currently at about 6%. India’s is the rupee, which is worth about one cent.
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