

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.

crops
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populous
poverty
rural
size
trade
unemployment

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.

KEY

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Population

Although population **growth** has been slowing about 15 million Indians are still born every year. Life **expectancy** is about 68 years. 70 per cent of India 's population lives in **rural** 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 **poverty** 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 **official** language is Hindi. There are 14 other languages. 40 % of the population are **illiterates**- they can't read or write.

Economy

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