**Full name:** Republic of India  
**Government:** Federal republic  

**Location:** Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan  
**Capital:** New Delhi  
**Area:** 3,287,590 sq km (2,042,813 sq miles); slightly more than one-third the size of the US  

**Climate:** varies from tropical monsoon in south, to temperate in north  
**Terrain:** upland plain (Deccan Plateau) in south, flat to rolling plain along the Ganges, deserts in west, Himalayas in north  
**Natural Hazards:** droughts; flash floods, as well as widespread and destructive flooding from monsoonal rains; severe thunderstorms; earthquakes  
**Natural Resources:** coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land  

**Population:** 1,147,995,904 (July 2008 est.)  
**Ethnic groups:** Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)  
**Major Languages:** Hindi (national language) there are 14 other official languages: Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Kashmiri, Sindhi, and Sanskrit; Hindustani is a popular variant of Hindi/Urdu spoken widely throughout northern India but is not an official language (2001 census)  
**Religions:** Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census)  
**Life expectancy:** 69 years (men), 72 years (women) (2008 est.)  

**Currency:** Indian rupee (INR)