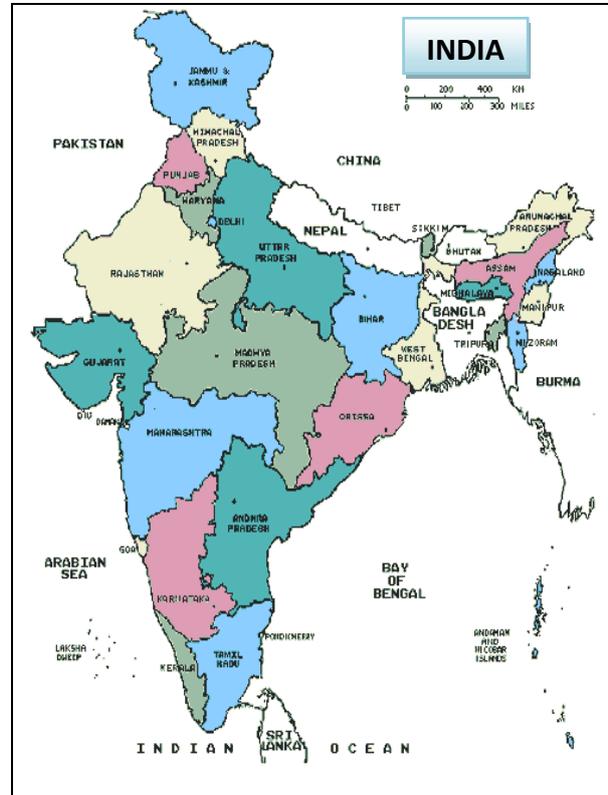




INDIA

India is one of the oldest civilisations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. It covers an area of 32,87,263 sq km (12,69,219 sq mi), extending from the snow-covered Himalayan heights to the tropical rain forests of the south. As the 7th largest country in the world, India stands apart from the rest of Asia, marked off as it is by mountains and the sea, which give the country a distinct geographical entity. Bounded by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards tapering off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.



India shares land borders with Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal and Bhutan to the north and north-east; and Burma and Bangladesh to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives; in addition, India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand and Indonesia.



National Flag: The national flag of India has three colours i.e. saffron, white and green, with *Ashok Chakra*, a 24 spoke wheel in navy blue, at its centre.

Population: As per Census of 2011, India's total population amounted to 1,210,193,422 people.

Official Languages: Hindi and English

Currency: Indian rupee (₹) (INR)



Jaipur

Jaipur, also popularly known as the *Pink City*, is the capital and largest city of the Indian state of Rajasthan. Founded on 18 November 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the ruler of Amber, the city today has a population of more than 3.9 million.

Jaipur is one of the finest planned cities of India, located in the semi-desert lands of Rajasthan. The city which once had been the capital of the royalty now is the capital city of Rajasthan. The very structure of Jaipur represents the taste of the Rajputs and the Royal families. At present, Jaipur is a major business centre with all requisites of a metropolitan city.



The city is remarkable among pre-modern Indian cities for the width and regularity of its streets which are laid out into six sectors separated by broad streets 111 ft. (34 m) wide. The urban quarters are further divided by networks of gridded streets. Five quarters wrap around the east, south and west sides of a central palace quarter, with a sixth quarter immediately to the east. The Palace quarter encloses a sprawling palace complex, the Wind Palace (Hawa Mahal), formal gardens and a small lake. Nahargarh Fort, which was one of the residences of the King Sawai Jai Singh II, crowns the hill in the northwest corner of the old city. The observatory, Jantar Mantar, is one of the World Heritage Sites. Jaipur is a popular tourist destination in Rajasthan and India.

Jaipur has a hot semi-arid climate receiving over 650 millimetres of rainfall annually but most rains occur in the monsoon months between June and September. Temperatures remain relatively high throughout the year, with the summer months of April to early July having average daily temperatures of around 30°C (86 °F). The winter months of November to February are mild and pleasant, with average temperatures ranging from 15–18 °C (59–64 °F) and with little or no humidity.