

# India at a Glance

*March 7, 2007*

**Land area:** 3.29 million square kilometers

**Capital:** New Delhi

**Political system and Government:** India attained independence from British rule on 15 August 1947. The 1950 Constitution provides for a parliamentary system of Government with a bicameral parliament and three independent branches: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The country has a federal structure with elected Governments in States. There are 28 states and 7 Union Territories (administered directly by the Central Government). There is healthy competition between all the states to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for speedy economic growth and employment generation.

**Population:** 1,027 million (2001).

**Population growth rate:** 1.93 per cent (1991 - 2001)

**Population density:** 324 persons per square kilometre

**Life expectancy:** 60.4 years, male: 61.8 years, female: 59 years

**Literacy rate:** 65.38 percent (Kerala has the highest literacy rate of 90.92 per cent. As per 2001 census all States and Union Territories have achieved a male literacy rate of 60 per cent and most of the States have attained a female literacy rate of over 50 per cent).

**Languages spoken:** India is a multilingual society with 18 principal languages recognised by the constitution. Hindi is the language of a large percentage of people (38 per cent), while English is the preferred business language.

**Major religions:** Majority are Hindus, though a significant number are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and others.

**International airports:** Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram.

**Major ports of entry:** Chennai, Ennore, Haldia, Kolkata, Kandla, Kochi, Mormugao, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Paradip, Tuticorin and Vishakhapatnam

**Climate:** Mainly tropical in Southern India but temperatures in the north range from sub-zero degrees to 50 degrees Celsius. There are well defined seasons in the northern region: winter (Dec - Feb), Spring (Mar - Apr), Summer (May - Jun), monsoons (Jul - Sep) and autumn (Oct - Nov).

**Time zone:** GMT +5 hours.