



<b>Location</b>	India belongs to the sub-continent of South Asia. It borders the Arabian Sea and Pakistan to the west, China, Nepal and Bhutan to the north and Bangladesh and Burma to the east. The capital of India is New Delhi. Map: <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html</a>
<b>Climate</b>	India's climate varies from temperate in the north to tropical monsoon in the south, with temperatures sometimes reaching over 50 degrees Celsius.
<b>Geography</b>	India's terrain consists of plains along the Ganges River and in the south, deserts in the west and the world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas, in the north.
<b>Government</b>	In 1947, after nearly a century of British dominance, India gained independence following a non-violent resistance led by Mohandas Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Because of intense internal conflict between Hindus and Muslims, a separate state (Pakistan) was created for India's Muslim population. Over 14 million people were uprooted during the partition and widespread violence led to hundreds of thousands of deaths. India's government is now a federal republic and is democratically elected. However, corruption is widespread through the country's government branches, from police to politicians.
<b>Environment</b>	India's environmental issues include pollution, deforestation, desertification (areas are becoming more desert-like, causing drought), soil depletion and water shortages.
<b>Economy</b>	India has a diverse and rapidly growing economy based on agriculture (both traditional and modern), crafts, industry (e.g., textiles, chemicals, steel), and services (e.g., global call centers). However, most of the country's wealth remains in the hands of a small elite group and a huge gap exists between the rich and the poor.
<b>People</b>	In 2015, India's population reached 1.251 billion (second only to that of China) with an average life expectancy of 68.13 years. <sup>1</sup> English is spoken widely, along with Hindi and 13 other official languages.
<b>Novels</b> <i>Broken Glass</i> by Sally Grindley	Millions of children (between 60 to 115 million) in India work as child labourers – leaving them poor, illiterate and often crippled – and most are bound to employers to pay off debt. <sup>2</sup> Although factors like discrimination and exclusion contribute to child labour, poverty is the root cause of the problem. It is also the reason that many Indian children lack quality education and do not have access to proper healthcare. As a result, they often suffer from malnutrition (which limits their ability to learn and can lead to death) and HIV/AIDS (to which women and children are especially vulnerable). 77 million people in India lack access to safe water. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Issue</b> Rights of Children	

1 The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook, "India," available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>

2 Human Rights Watch, "Small Change," available from <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/01/22/small-change>

3 Water.org, "India-Quick Facts," available from <http://water.org/country/india/>

