

Video “Sight and sounds of India” - solutions

Facts and figures

- Over 1 billion inhabitants
- Boundaries with Pakistan, China, Nepal (north)
- Capital: New Delhi (Commercial centre of the north); seat of colonial government since 1931
- 1947: independence from Britain

Character of the country

- Extreme diversity of landscapes, peoples, languages, customs
- North: mountainous (Himalaya) – further south: plains and jungles – west: vast deserts, east: forests/monsoon; tea plantations (Assam, Darjeeling)
- Surrounded by beaches of Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean

Religion:

- Lots of travellers feel attracted by religious life
- Religious centre: Varanasi, on the Ganges (Hindus: pilgrimage, bath in the river, holy)
- Animals seen as manifestation of Gods (elephant God, rats, monkey)
- Very old Rituals and festivals very important

Sights:

- Taj Mahal (Agra) – 17th century – Mughal Emperor – mausoleum for wife – poem in stone
- Udaipur: palaces (8!); “Venice of the East”
- National parks – tigers, crocodiles, elephants, best in pre-monsoon period (March to June)