General Information: India

1. Country Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Inde</td>
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<td>German</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
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<td>Portuguese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>India</td>
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Visa

Visa Requirements
Citizens of all countries (including Commonwealth) require a valid passport and an appropriate (entry, transit or tourist) visa. The visa must be obtained abroad from an Indian Mission. If planning to visit a neighboring country such as Nepal and then re-entering India, a double/multiple entry visa should be obtained.

General requirements:

- Original passport valid for at least six months
- Correct visa fee
- Two passport-size photographs (five photographs in case of Pakistani nationals)
- Supporting documents, where necessary
- Duly completed application form (Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals need to apply on special application forms)

Tourists from other countries are advised to check current applicable visa fee/visa extension fees with the government of India Tourist Offices or Indian Consular Offices (http://www.thokalath.com/embassy/index.php) located in their respective countries.

Validity of all visas is counted from the date of their issue.

2. Other general Information

Currency
The units of Indian currency are the rupee and the paisa (100 paisa is equal to one rupee). Paper money comes in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, and 500 rupees. Coins are in denominations of 25, and 50 paisa, one rupee, two rupees, and five rupees.
Importing and exporting the currency is strictly against the rules. International airports have currency-exchange booths that are always open for arriving or departing overseas flights. A good idea would be to change certain amount of money in small denominations.

Always change money from an authorized money-changer and do not forget to take the encashment slip. Some banks now charge a nominal fee for this slip, which is necessary for paying hotel bills or travel expenses in rupees. The encashment slip is also required when reconverting rupees into another currency.

**Banking**
Banking hours usually are 10 AM to 2 PM Monday to Friday and 10 AM to 12-noon on Saturdays.

**Credit Cards**
American Express, Master Charge, Visa and Diners Club credit cards are generally accepted by large establishments including hotels, shops, and airlines.

**Drinking Water**
Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes.
Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles.

**Electricity**
220-240 volts, 50 Hz
A variety of power outlets are used in India, but most plugs have two or three round pins.

**International Call from India**
To dial outside the country from India, prefix the country code with 00.
E.g a US number would be dialed as 00-1-555-555-5555.

Tipping
Tipping is virtually unknown in India, except in swanky establishments in the major cities. In tourist restaurants or hotels a 10% service charge is often added to bills. In smaller places, where tipping is optional, you need only tip a few rupees, not a percentage of your bill.

3. Bangalore City Guide

Bangalore city is located in the southern part of the state of Karnataka, in the southern region of India. It is 3,113 feet (949 m) above sea level, on top of a ridge in the Karnataka plateau. Bangalore is 998 km from Mumbai (Bombay) and 562 km from Hyderabad.

Airport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Bangalore International Airport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>11.6kms, East South East of Bangalore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information desk</td>
<td>+91-80-5277944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transfer to the city
A city bus serves the airport. Taxis are available 24 hours a day. The journey to the city centre takes about 30 minutes (longer in rush hour). An inter-state bus service is also available round the clock. Many hotels arrange pick up at the airport for their guests.

Weather
The mean temperature in the warmest month (April) is 27.1°C (80.8°F) and in the coldest month (January) is 20.4°C (68.8°F). The temperature during the day rarely exceeds 34°C (93°F) in summer (April and May) and seldom falls below 15.5°C (60°F) on winter nights (December, January and February). The atmosphere is neither very humid nor very dry.