

KS3 Geography: Exploring India

Introducing the physical and human geography of India

NARRATOR: It's late December. Three thirteen-year-olds from the UK are on their way to explore the geography of India. It's the trip of a lifetime, one that will challenge their preconceptions.

Dua, Amalia and Nayan are on a ten hour flight through the night from London to New Delhi, the capital of India, a country of one and a quarter billion people. Twenty times the population of the UK.

DUA: I think we probably will find out more about how India really is not just how you see it in pictures.

NARRATOR: **Having arrived in Delhi they're taking a one and a half hour internal flight to the city of Patna in east India.**

AMALIA: I hope to just find out more about what life is like there and what people ... like people's views on their life and if it's really that different from life here.

NAYAN: I'd like to find out how India has actually changed over time.

NARRATOR: **Nineteen hours after leaving London, Heathrow, they've finally reached their destination. It's 6 pm local time, five-and-a-half hours ahead of the UK. They've come half way across the world and a huge adventure awaits them.**

Their first challenge is to get to their hotel but they've arrived in Patna during the evening rush hour.

DUA: So casual.

NAYAN: Wow.

DUA: I cannot believe this.

AMALIA: Wow.

DUA: Was that normal?

AMALIA: That was so close!

NAYAN: That was scary!

DUA: So scary!

- AMALIA: There's like five people on the motorcycle.
- DUA: That's like another problem with having a really high population.
- AMALIA: That's like us just trotting down the A4.
- DUA: So nineteen hours, that is the most I've travelled in my entire life. It's quite shocking like, it's just a little bit more than what I expected.
- AMALIA: Yeah, I think we're all really tired at this point. It's weird with the time difference trying to get used to it but hopefully by tomorrow we should be good to go.
- NARRATOR: **At noon the next day, with their body clocks at 6:30 am UK time they start exploring. Patna is the capital of Bihar state in north-eastern India and has a population of almost 2 million people. It might seem like total confusion but Nayan is beginning to see a pattern.**
- NAYAN: It looks like there's no rules but there is some sort of order in this chaos. Like people know that we don't crash into each other and also this beeping tells you like, there's a car behind you, car in front of you so you literally know where the cars are so you can dodge them. It's almost like a game.
- AMALIA: There're loads of children down there ... literally sitting near the road.
- NARRATOR: **Although India is developing rapidly there is still a lot of poverty. Over 300 million people survive on less than £1 a day. But that's only part of the picture.**
- Dua and Amalia have noticed a large number of *Scorpios* - India's most popular, home-produced, four-wheel-drive car.**
- AMALIA: Each of them are like £8000 to £13,000 I think and that's really quite a lot and there's so many of them on the roads so it's showing that as well as poverty...
- DUA: There is wealth.
- AMALIA: ...there is quite a lot of rich people.
- NARRATOR: **India is a huge country, more than ten times the size of the UK. Patna is the country's 19th biggest city, despite its population being larger than Manchester and Birmingham combined.**
- To get their bearings, the three visitors are meeting a group of Indian students.**

- STUDENT 1: We are an eastern part of India and other parts have different cultures. That is why we consider Hindi as our mother tongue. Hindi can be understood and be spoken by everyone.
- STUDENT 2: In schools we use English, so we can do English and if we talk of myself and home we use Bengali, we can have Bengali and in Hindi with friends. So we have three languages.
- NARRATOR: **After six days in Patna the students travel more than 2500 km - nearly twice the length of the UK - to Bangalore, in the southern state of Karnataka.**
- Ten million people live and work in Bangalore, which is also known as Bengaluru. It's one of the fastest growing cities in India and the centre of the country's hi-tech sector. It's also 10C warmer than Patna and feels very different.**
- AMALIA: Looks much more like London doesn't it?
- DUA: Yeah.
- AMALIA: That's like a proper shop, like Revlon and stuff.
- DUA: Ray Ban, no way!
- AMALIA: Ray Ba... Oh yeah! Oh my god! Dunkin' Donuts! Oh my god.
- NAYAN: Where? Oh my gosh!
- AMALIA: Down there.
- NAYAN: My perception of India was like, there are these small independent shops which only sell their own goods, they're homemade and things like that. Part of my perception's right, but there's also big super chains of stores like Samsung, Nokia. I didn't expect that.
- NARRATOR: **Amalia and Dua are meeting students from a local school and discussing the length of India's coastline.**
- STUDENT 3: This coastline starts from here and ends over here. So, the distance between this and this is 7500km.
- STUDENT 4: Approx.
- STUDENT 3: Approx.

- AMALIA: That's actually the distance that it was from London to Delhi and that's like ... we went through so many countries, so the fact that it's 7500 from just ... in the same country ... it must be really, really big.
- STUDENT 4: Big, yeah.
- DUA: Since we've come to Bangalore we've noticed that it's developed a lot as ... 'cause we went to Patna first and now we've seen like a major difference and it looks a lot like back home. So what do you think of the development in Bangalore?
- STUDENT 3: I would say it's a fast developing city, like about ten years before there were not as many buildings here as before so then it's a fast developing city with more and more improvements every year.
- DUA: And do you think that's a good thing?
- STUDENT 3: Yeah I do think that's a good thing but that's ... it even has a harmful effect on the environment ... like there's a lot of deforestation and stuff.
- STUDENT 4: People have migrated to Bangalore from you know, various parts of India so you get to see like a mixture of all the cultures from India.
- NARRATOR: **After travelling nearly 10,000km the visitors' first impressions of India are beginning to change.**
- DUA: Seeing how globalization has really captured the entire country has been really eye-opening. All the cultures and all the different experiences mixed together makes like a really interesting country to be in.
- AMALIA: At first it feels threatening because it's somewhere completely different. Watching things on TV and stuff make you have an image in your brain that it's like a poor country, they haven't got much, there's not a lot of opportunities but it's completely different. You just notice that it's really alive.
- NAYAN: If you come to India and you stay in one city, you would get a one-sided opinion of India. You have to talk to people, visit places, to actually get a proper conclusion.