



Republic of India

The Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's oldest, flourished during the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. and extended into northwestern India. Aryan tribes from the northwest infiltrated the Indian subcontinent about 1500 B.C.; their merger with the earlier Dravidian inhabitants created the classical Indian culture. The Maurya Empire of the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. - which reached its zenith under ASHOKA - united much of South Asia. The Golden Age ushered in by the Gupta dynasty (4th to 6th centuries A.D.) saw a flowering of Indian science, art, and culture. Islam spread across the subcontinent over a period of 700 years. In the 10th and 11th centuries, Turks and Afghans invaded India and established the Delhi Sultanate. In the early 16th century, the Emperor BABUR established the Mughal Dynasty which ruled India for more than three centuries. European explorers began establishing footholds in India during the 16th century. By the 19th century, Great Britain had become the dominant political power on the subcontinent. The British Indian Army played a vital role in both World Wars. Years of nonviolent resistance to British rule, led by Mohandas Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, eventually resulted in Indian independence, which was granted in 1947. Large-scale communal violence took place before and after the subcontinent partition into two separate states - India and Pakistan. The neighboring nations have fought three wars since independence, the last of which was in 1971 and resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. India's nuclear weapons tests in 1998 emboldened Pakistan to conduct its own tests that same year. In November 2008, terrorists originating from Pakistan conducted a series of coordinated attacks in Mumbai, India's financial capital. Despite pressing problems such as significant overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and widespread corruption, economic growth following the launch of economic reforms in 1991 and a massive youthful population are driving India's emergence as a regional and global power. (From CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>)

Physical Geography

Region: Southern Asia

Size in Squared Kilometers: 3,287,263 sq km

Country's neighbors? Bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan

Physical Features: upland plain (Deccan Plateau) in south, flat to rolling plain along the Ganges, deserts in west, Himalayas in north

Climate: varies from tropical monsoon in south to temperate in north

Cultural Geography

Population? 1,251,695,584 (July 2015 est.)

Ethnic Groups: Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)

Official language: Hindi 41%, English

Other Languages Spoken: Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2%, Marathi 7%, Tamil 5.9%, Urdu 5%, Gujarati 4.5%, Kannada 3.7%, Malayalam 3.2%, Oriya 3.2%, Punjabi 2.8%, Assamese 1.3%, Maithili 1.2%, other 5.9%

Capital: Mumbai, 18 million

Other Major Cities: Bengaluru, 8.4 million, Chennai, 7.1 million, Kolkata, 4.5 million

Average Quality of Life: Below Average

Political Geography

Founded: 15 August 1947 (independence from the UK)

Type of Government: Democratic Republic

Country's leaders:

Prime Minister: Narendra Modi

President: Pranab Mukherjee

Country's Military: 1,325,000 Active Personnel

Allies: Israel, USA, Russia, France and Japan

Enemies: Pakistan

Economic Geography

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$7.965 trillion (2015 est.)

Natural resources: coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, rare earth elements, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land

Currency: Indian rupee

Major Exports and Imports:

Exports: petroleum products, precious stones, vehicles, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, cereals, apparel

Imports: crude oil, precious stones, machinery, chemicals, fertilizer, plastics, iron and steel

Biggest Trading Partners:

Exports: US 15.2%, UAE 11.4%, Hong Kong 4.6% (2015)

Imports: China 15.4%, UAE 5.5%, Saudi Arabia 5.4%, Switzerland 5.3%, US 5.1% (2015)
