

India

India is made up of 28 states and 8 Union Territories. The country is bounded by the Bay of Bengal to the east, Arabian Sea to the west and Indian Ocean to the south. Pakistan and Afghanistan share a border in northwest India.

Overview

Official Name

Republic of India

Capital

New Delhi

Independence Day

15 August 1947

Population, Territory and Currency

Population & total area

1,399,179,585 (2023 est.)

3,287,263 square km

Source: CIA World Factbook

Currency

Indian Rupee (INR)

Average price per meal:
SGD 7

The Flag

The flag of India is a horizontal rectangular tricolour of India saffron, white and India green with Ashoka Chakra (a 24-spoke wheel in navy blue) at its centre. The top band represents the strength and courage of the country, the middle white band indicates peace and truth, and the bottom band shows fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land. The Chakra symbolises that there is life in movement and death is stagnation.



Key Historical Events

1858

British crown rule after failed Indian uprising.

1947

Independence from the British. Partition of the sub-continent into mainly Hindu India and Muslim-majority Pakistan.

1996

Hindu nationalist BJP emerges as the largest single party.

2015

India and Bangladesh signs landmark border deal.

1920-1922

Nationalist leader Mahatma Gandhi launches an anti-British civil disobedience campaign.

1948, 1965,

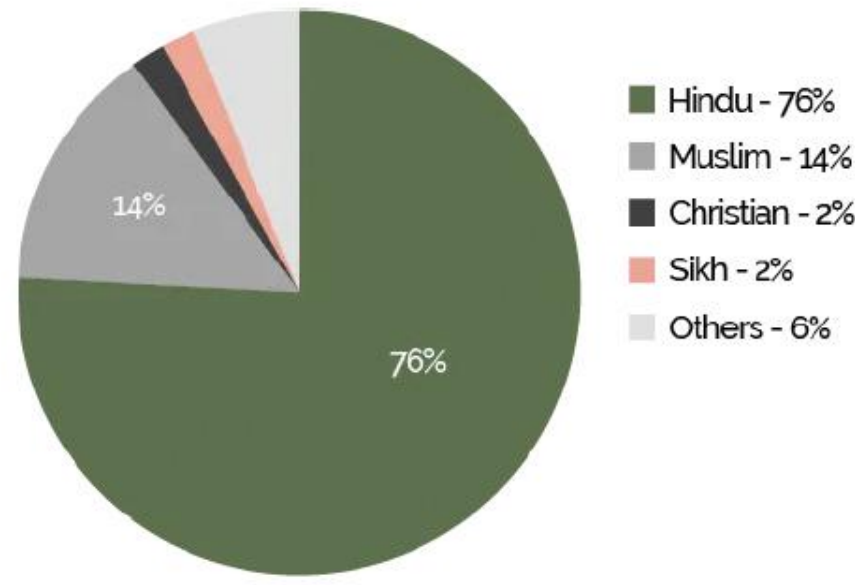
1971

War with Pakistan.

May 2000

India marks the birth of its billionth citizen.

Demographics



Male-Female:
51.5%-48.5%

Urban Population:
36.4%

**Youth aged 15-24
years: 17.51%**

*Source: CIA World
Factbook (2023)*

Economic Profile

India is projected to retain its title of being the fastest-growing economy in the world with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasting 8.5% growth for 2022. India's economy exhibited robust growth with a real GDP growth rate of 7.6% in the July-September quarter of 2023, surpassing expectations. The manufacturing sector accounts for approximately 17% of India's GDP (Cyrill, 2023). It is expected that India will reach a GDP of USD 6 trillion by 2027 if it can successfully digitalise its economy, paving the way for the country's equity market to be one of the five largest in the world. With the emphasis on manufacturing, various government incentives such as lower taxes, rising services exports and technology transformation will aid its growth.

Key Industries

Agriculture

The agriculture sector is the primary source of livelihood for about 58% of India's population. In 2019, India was the 9th largest exporter of agriculture products and the total value of exported agriculture products stood at USD 37.4 billion. India is the world's 2nd largest producer of food grains, fruits and vegetables and the 2nd largest exporter of sugar (IBEF, 2024).

Textile

The textile industry continues to be one of top employment-generating sectors for both skilled and unskilled labour, providing jobs for over 35 million people in the country. India is the world's second-largest exporter of textiles and clothing, with exports standing at about USD 44.4 billion in 2022. Overall, the textiles and apparel industry contributes 2.3% to the country's GDP, 13% to industrial production and 12% to exports (IBEF, 2024).

Up-and-Coming

Financial Technology: India is amongst the world's growing fintech markets. The industry's market size was USD 50 billion in 2021 and is estimated to reach USD 150 billion by 2025. To date, India has more than 6,000 fintech startups.

Lifestyle & Consumer Goods: With a burgeoning middle class, the Indian consumer market is set to become the world's largest consumer market after China and the US. Consumer spending in India is expected to grow from USD 1.5 trillion to nearly USD 6 trillion by 2030.

Local Food

Khichdi

A highly popular dish made of rice and lentils, it is considered a symbol of national unity and diversity.



Khichdi

Biryani

This popular dish dates back to the Mughal Empire, containing basmati rice, spices, meat, eggs and vegetables.



Biryani

Chutney

Flavourful chutneys are India's national condiments. They consist of cut pickled fruit seasoned with spices such as cumin, tamarind, ginger and turmeric.



Chutney

Places of Interest

Taj Mahal

Crown of the Palace

A symbol of India's rich history, it attracts 8 million visitors a year. The tomb of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan is the centrepiece of the 17-hectare complex of a mosque and guest house bounded by gardens.



Taj Mahal



Ellora Caves

Ellora Caves

Aurangabad district

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is one of the largest rock-cut monastery-temple cave complexes in the world featuring Hindu, Buddhist and Jain monuments dating from the 600-1000 CE period.

Major Festivals

Diwali

Also known as the Festival of Light, Diwali celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. Widely observed among more than a billion people from a variety of faiths across India and its diaspora, the five days of Diwali are marked by prayer, feasts, fireworks, family gatherings, and charitable giving.



Diwali Celebration

Holi

Famously known for the beautiful act of throwing coloured dye in the air, there is more than meets the eye. The festival has significance in welcoming spring, signifying a new beginning where people can release all their inhibitions and start afresh.



Holi Festival