

# India

## Incredible



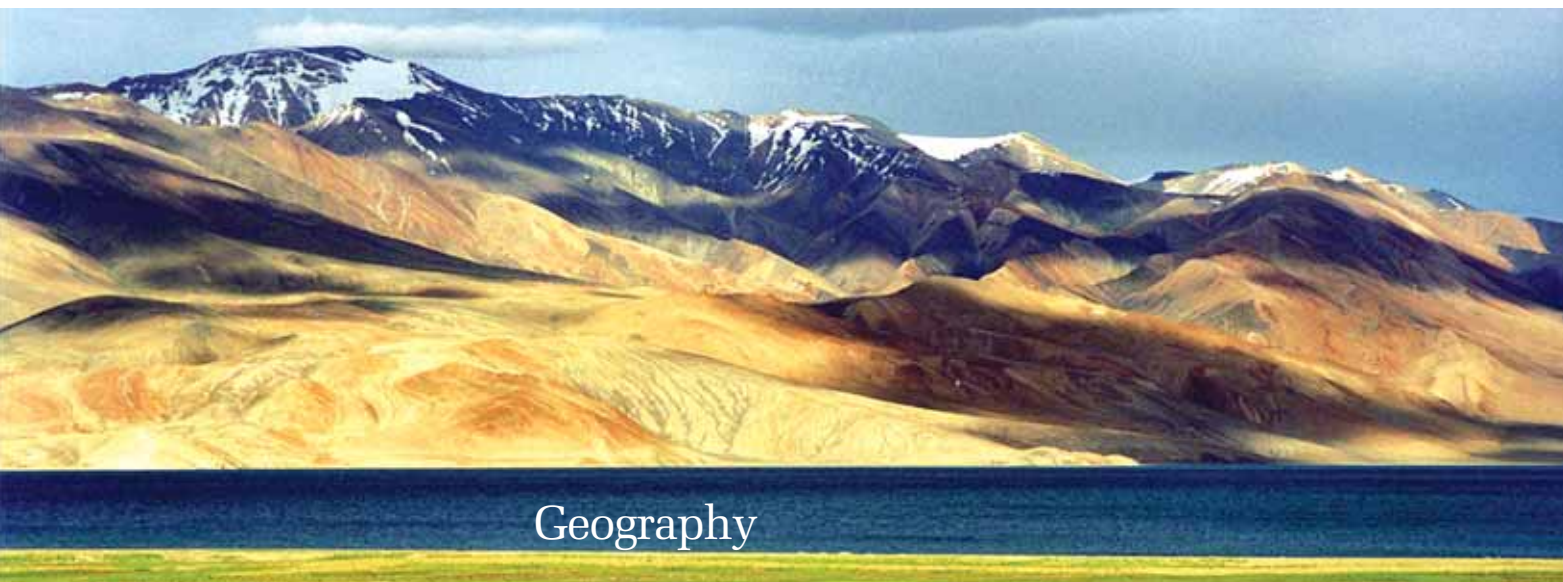
NATIONAL FLAG


 सत्यमेव जयते  
 NATIONAL EMBLEM

 H.E. PRATIBHA PATIL  
 President

 H.E. Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH  
 Prime Minister

*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 onto 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. Nonviolent resistance to British rule, led by Mohandas GANDHI and Jawaharlal NEHRU, eventually brought about independence in 1947. Communal violence led to the subcontinent's bloody partition, which resulted in the creation of two separate states, India and Pakistan. Despite pressing problems such as significant overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and widespread corruption, rapid economic development is fueling India's rise on the world stage.*

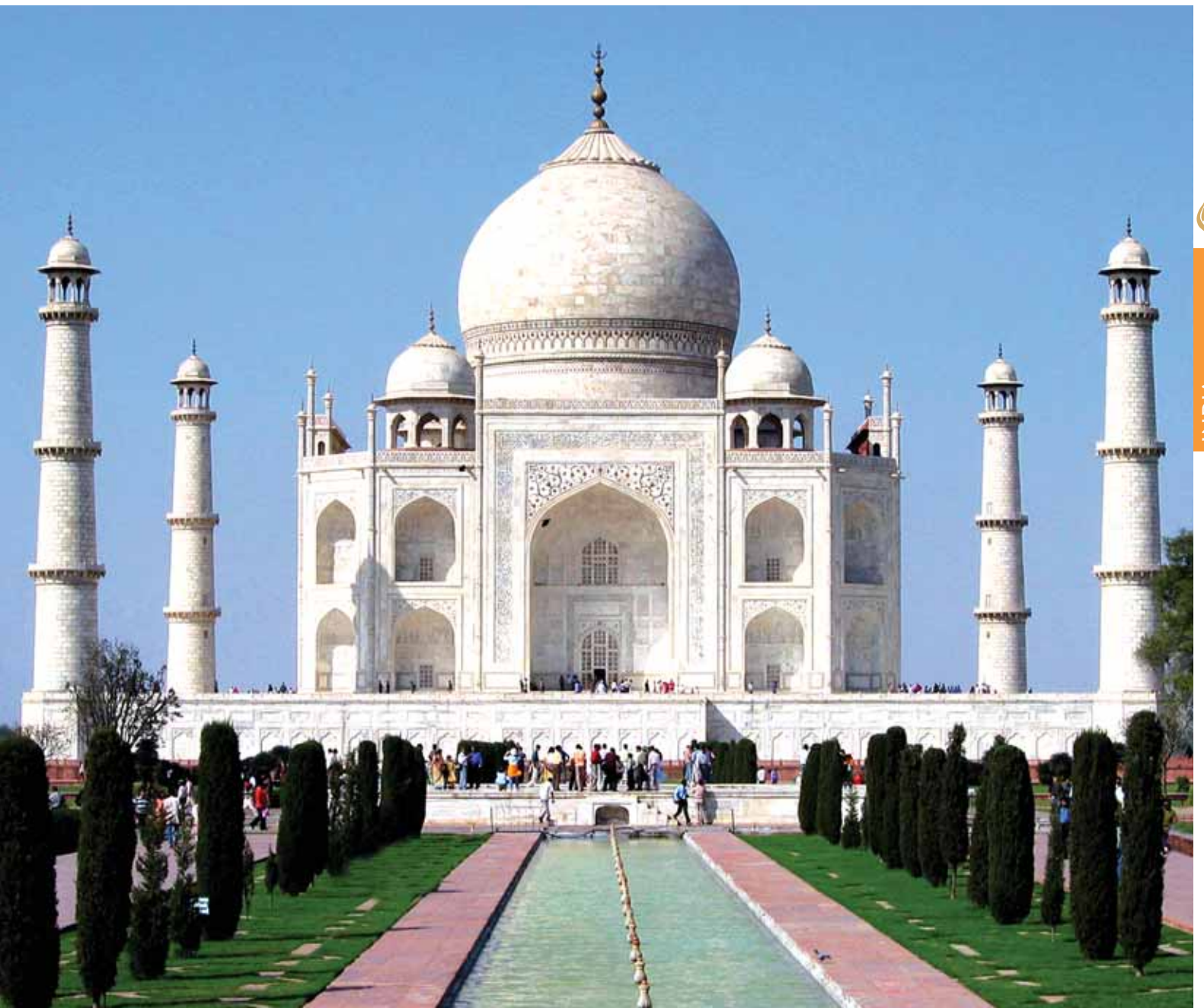


# Geography

- LOCATION:** Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan.
- GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES:** 20 00 N, 77 00 E.
- AREA:** Total: 3,287,263 sq km; Country comparison to the world: 7
- MARITIME CLAIMS:** Territorial sea: 12 nm  
Contiguous zone: 24 nm  
Exclusive economic zone: 200 nm  
Continental shelf: 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin
- COASTLINE:** 7000 km
- LAND BOUNDARIES:** Total: 14,103 km  
Border countries: Bangladesh 4,053 km, Bhutan 605 km, Burma 1,463 km, China 3,380 km, Nepal 1,690 km, Pakistan 2,912 km
- CLIMATE:** Varies from tropical monsoon in south to temperate in north
- ELEVATION EXTREMES:** Lowest point: Indian Ocean 0 m  
Highest point: Kanchenjunga 8,598 m
- NATURAL RESOURCES:** Coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land
- NATURAL HAZARDS:** Droughts; flash floods, as well as widespread and destructive flooding from monsoonal rains; severe thunderstorms; earthquakes
- ENVIRONMENT - CURRENT ISSUES:** Deforestation; soil erosion; overgrazing; desertification; air pollution from industrial effluents and vehicle emissions; water pollution from raw sewage and runoff of agricultural pesticides; tap water is not potable throughout the country; huge and growing population is overstraining natural resources.
- ENVIRONMENT - INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS:** Party to: Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling  
Signed, but not ratified: None of the selected agreements
- STANDARD TIME:** GMT +5.30 hours

## People

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| NATIONALITY:                            | Indian   |
| POPULATION:                             | 1,173,108,018 (July 2010 est.);<br>Country comparison to the world: 2  |
| POPULATION GROWTH RATE:                 | 1.376% (2010 est.); Country comparison to the world: 90  |
| LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH:               | Total population: 66.46 years;<br>Country comparison to the world: 159   |
| HIV/AIDS - ADULT PREVALENCE RATE:       | 0.3% (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 89  |
| HIV/AIDS - PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS: | 2.4 million (2007 est.);<br>Country comparison to the world: 4   |
| HIV/AIDS - DEATHS:                      | 310,000 (2001 est.); Country comparison to the world: 2  |
| MAJOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES:              | Degree of risk: High<br>Food or waterborne diseases: Bacterial Diarrhea, Hepatitis A and E, and Typhoid fever<br>Vectorborne diseases: Chikungunya, Dengue fever, Japanese Encephalitis, and Malaria<br>Animal contact disease: Rabies<br>Water contact disease: Leptospirosis<br><i>Note: Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009)</i>  |
| ETHNIC GROUPS:                          | Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)   |
| RELIGIONS:                              | Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census)   |
| LANGUAGES:                              | Hindi 41%, 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%<br><br><i>Note: English enjoys the status of subsidiary official language but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication; Hindi is the most widely spoken language and primary tongue of 41% of the people; there are 14 other official languages: Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Kashmiri, Sindhi, and Sanskrit; Hindustani is a popular variant of Hindi/Urdu spoken widely throughout northern India but is not an official language (2001 census)</i> |
| LITERACY:                               | 61%  |



## Government

**COUNTRY NAME:** India; Official Name - Republic of India

**GOVERNMENT TYPE:** Federal Republic

**CAPITAL:** New Delhi

**HEAD OF THE STATE:** H.E. Pratibha Patil, President

**HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:** H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister

**INDEPENDENCE:** 15 August 1947 (from the UK)

**CONSTITUTION:** 26 January 1950; amended many times.

**LEGAL SYSTEM:** Based on English common law; judicial review of legislative acts; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; separate personal law codes apply to Christians, Hindus, and Muslims

**SUFFRAGE:** 18 years of age; Universal

## Economy

**ECONOMY - OVERVIEW:** India is developing into an open-market economy. Economic liberalization, including reduced controls on foreign trade and investment, began in the early 1990s and has served to accelerate the country's growth, which has averaged more than 7% per year since 1997. India's diverse economy encompasses traditional village farming, modern agriculture, handicrafts, a wide range of modern industries, and a multitude of services. Slightly more than half of the work force is in agriculture, but services are the major source of economic growth, accounting for more than half of India's output, with only one-third of its labor force. India has capitalized on its large educated English-speaking population to become a major exporter of information technology services and software workers. An industrial slowdown early in 2008, followed by the global financial crisis, led annual GDP growth to slow to 6.5% in 2009, still the second highest growth in the world among major economies. India escaped the brunt of the global financial crisis because of cautious banking policies and a relatively low dependence on exports for growth. Domestic demand, driven by purchases of consumer durables and automobiles, has re-emerged as a key driver of growth, as exports have fallen since the global crisis started. India's fiscal deficit increased substantially in 2008 due to fuel and fertilizer subsidies, a debt waiver program for farmers, a job guarantee program for rural workers, and stimulus expenditures. The government abandoned its deficit target and allowed the deficit to reach 6.8% of GDP in FY10. Nevertheless, as shares of GDP, both government spending and taxation are among the lowest in the world. The government has expressed a commitment to fiscal stimulus in FY10, and to deficit reduction the following two years. It has increased the pace of privatization of government-owned companies, partly to offset the deficit. India's long term challenges include widespread poverty, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, limited employment opportunities, and insufficient access to basic and higher education. Yet, India is emerging as a super-power due to its economic growth in the world's stage.





- GDP (OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE):** \$1.095 trillion (2009 est.)
- GDP - REAL GROWTH RATE:** 6.5% (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 12
- GDP - PER CAPITA (PPP):** \$3,100 (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 164
- POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE:** 25% (2007 est.)
- INFLATION RATE (CONSUMER PRICES):** 10.9% (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 196
- AGRICULTURE - PRODUCTS:** Rice, wheat, oilseed, cotton, jute, tea, sugarcane, lentils, onions, potatoes, dairy products, sheep, goats, poultry, fish
- INDUSTRIES:** Textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining, petroleum, machinery, software, pharmaceuticals
- INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH RATE:** 8.2% (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 9
- ELECTRICITY - PRODUCTION:** 723.8 billion kWh (2009 est.);  
Country comparison to the world: 6
- ELECTRICITY - CONSUMPTION:** 568 billion kWh (2007 est.);  
Country comparison to the world: 6
- ELECTRICITY - EXPORTS:** 810 million kWh (2009 est.)
- ELECTRICITY - IMPORTS:** 5.27 billion kWh (2009 est.)
- OIL - PRODUCTION:** 3.72 million bbl/day (2009 est.);  
Country comparison to the world: 6
- OIL - CONSUMPTION:** 2.67 million bbl/day (2009 est.);  
Country comparison to the world: 6
- OIL - EXPORTS:** 738,600 bbl/day (2007 est.);  
Country comparison to the world: 23
- OIL - IMPORTS:** 2.9 million bbl/day (2007 est.);  
Country comparison to the world: 6
- OIL - PROVED RESERVES:** 5.625 billion bbl (1 January 2009 est.);  
Country comparison to the world: 22

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>NATURAL GAS - PRODUCTION:</b>              | 32.85 billion cu m (2009 est.);<br>Country comparison to the world: 25                                    |
| <b>NATURAL GAS - CONSUMPTION:</b>             | 42.99 billion cu m (2008 est.);<br>Country comparison to the world: 19                                    |
| <b>NATURAL GAS - EXPORTS:</b>                 | 0 cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 171  |
| <b>NATURAL GAS - IMPORTS:</b>                 | 10.79 billion cu m (2008 est.);<br>Country comparison to the world: 22                                    |
| <b>NATURAL GAS - PROVED RESERVES:</b>         | 1.075 trillion cu m (1 January 2009 est.);<br>Country comparison to the world: 26                         |
| <b>EXPORTS:</b>                               | \$164.3 billion (2009 est.);<br>Country comparison to the world: 22                                       |
| <b>EXPORTS - COMMODITIES:</b>                 | Petroleum products, precious stones, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, vehicles, apparel              |
| <b>EXPORTS - PARTNERS:</b>                    | UAE 12.3%, US 11.7%, China 5.4%, Singapore 4.5% (2008)  |
| <b>IMPORTS:</b>                               | \$268.4 billion (2009 est.);<br>Country comparison to the world: 14                                       |
| <b>IMPORTS - COMMODITIES:</b>                 | Crude oil, precious stones, machinery, fertilizer, iron and steel, chemicals                              |
| <b>IMPORTS - PARTNERS:</b>                    | China 10.8%, Saudi Arabia 6.9%, US 6.7%, UAE 6.7%, Iran 4.2% (2008)                                       |
| <b>RESERVES &amp; FOREIGN EXCHANGED GOLD:</b> | \$274.7 billion (31 October 2009);<br>Country comparison to the world: 6                                  |
| <b>EXCHANGE RATES:</b>                        | Indian rupees (INR) per US dollar - 46.78 (2009), 43.319(2008), 41.487 (2007), 45.3 (2006), 44.101 (2005) |



## Communication

- TELEPHONES - MAIN LINES IN USE:** 36.76 million (2010); Country comparison to the world: 7
- TELEPHONES - MOBILE CELLULAR:** 545 million (2010); Country comparison to the world: 2
- BROADCAST/TELECAST STATIONS:** Radios: AM 149, FM 171, Shortwave(SW) 54 (2009)  
Televisions: 1,400 (2009)
- INTERNET TLD:** .in
- INTERNET HOSTS:** 3.611 million (2009); Country comparison to the world: 22
- INTERNET USERS:** 81 million (2008); Country comparison to the world: 4
- INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE:** +91

## Transportation

- AIRPORTS:** 349 (2009); Country comparison to the world: 23
- HELIPORTS:** 37 (2009)
- PIPELINES:** Condensate/gas 2 km; gas 7,542 km; liquid petroleum gas 2,163 km; oil 7,659 km; refined products 7,201 km (2009)
- ROADWAYS:** Total: 3,320,410 km (includes 200 km of expressways) (2009);  
Country comparison to the world: 3
- WATERWAYS:** 14,500 km; Country comparison to the world: 9  
*Note: 5,200 km on major rivers and 485 km on canals suitable for mechanized vessels (2008)*
- RAILWAYS:** Total: 64,015 km; Country comparison to the world: 4  
Broad gauge: 52,808 km 1.676-m gauge (18,172 km electrified)  
Narrow gauge: 8,473 km 1.000-m gauge; 2,734 km 0.762-m gauge and 0.610-m gauge (2009)
- MERCHANT MARINE:** Total: 501; Country comparison to the world: 23  
By type: Bulk carrier 102, cargo 241, carrier 1, chemical tanker 19, container 13, liquefied gas 18, passenger 3, passenger/cargo 11, petroleum tanker 92, roll on/roll off 1  
Foreign-owned: 12 (China 1, Germany 2, Hong Kong 1, UAE 6, UK 2)  
Registered in other countries: 61 (Barbados 1, Comoros 2, Cyprus 2, Dominica 2, Liberia 2, Malta 2, Marshall Islands 1, Panama 27, Saint Kitts and Nevis 1, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 7, Singapore 13, unknown 1) (2008)
- PORTS AND TERMINALS:** Chennai, Haldia, Jawaharal Nehru, Kandla, Kolkata (Calcutta), Mormugao, Mumbai (Bombay), New Mangalore, Vishakhapatnam

## Issues

- INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:** At least 600,000 (about half are Kashmiri Pandits from Jammu and Kashmir) (2007).

Source: wikipedia and various other sources