

## **India**

**Capital:** New Delhi

**Population:** Over 1.4 billion

**Official Languages:** Hindi and English (with 21 additional recognized regional languages)

**Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)

### **Geography:**

India is the seventh-largest country in the world by area and shares borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. It has a vast and diverse geography including the Himalayan mountains, fertile Indo-Gangetic plains, the Thar Desert, tropical rainforests, and long coastlines along the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.

### **History:**

India is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations—the Indus Valley Civilization. It saw the rise of great empires like the Maurya, Gupta, Chola, and Mughal. British colonial rule lasted nearly 200 years, ending in 1947 with independence led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. India became a democratic republic in 1950.

### **Culture:**

India is an amalgamation of thousands of cultures, languages, and traditions. It is the birthplace of major religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Celebrations like Diwali, Holi, Eid, Christmas, and Pongal are widely observed. Indian cuisine, music, dance (like Bharatanatyam and Kathak), cinema (Bollywood), and classical literature form an important part of global culture.

### **Economy:**

India has one of the largest economies in the world, supported by sectors like information technology, pharmaceuticals, textiles, automotive, agriculture, and services. It is a member of BRICS, G20, and the United Nations. Major cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad are global IT and financial hubs.