**India**, officially the **Republic of India** ([ISO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_15919): *Bhārat Gaṇarājya*),[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-30) is a country in [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia). It is the [seventh-largest country by area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area); the [most populous country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_(United_Nations)) from June 2023[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-31)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-32) and from the time of its independence in 1947, the world's most populous democracy.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEMetcalfMetcalf2012327-33)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-stein-arnold-34)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEFisher2018184%E2%80%93185-35) Bounded by the [Indian Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean) on the south, the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) on the southwest, and the [Bay of Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Bengal) on the southeast, it shares land borders with [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) to the west;[[j]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-37) [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal), and [Bhutan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhutan) to the north; and [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh) and [Myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar) to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) and the [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives); its [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andaman_and_Nicobar_Islands) share a maritime border with [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand), Myanmar, and [Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia).