India

India, officially the **Republic of India** (ISO: *Bhārat Gaṇarājya*),[21] is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh-largest country by area; the most populous country as of June 2023;[22][23] and from the time of its independence in 1947, the world's most populous democracy.[24][25][26] Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast, it shares land borders with Pakistan to the west;[j] China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives; its Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand, Myanmar, and Indonesia.

Modern humans arrived on the Indian subcontinent from Africa no later than 55,000 years ago.[27][28][29] Their long occupation, initially in varying forms of isolation as hunter-gatherers, has made the region highly diverse, second only to Africa in human genetic diversity.[30] Settled life emerged on the subcontinent in the western margins of the Indus river basin 9,000 years ago, evolving gradually into the Indus Valley Civilisation of the third millennium BCE.[31] By 1200 BCE, an archaic form of Sanskrit, an Indo-European language, had diffused into India from the northwest.[32][33] Its evidence today is found in the hymns of the *Rigveda*. Preserved by an oral tradition that was resolutely vigilant, the *Rigveda* records the dawning of Hinduism in India.[34] The Dravidian languages of India were supplanted in the northern and western regions.[35] By 400 BCE, stratification and exclusion by caste had emerged within Hinduism,[36] and Buddhism and Jainism had arisen, proclaiming social orders unlinked to heredity.[37] Early political consolidations gave rise to the loose-knit Maurya and Gupta Empires based in the Ganges Basin.[38] Their collective era was suffused with wide-ranging creativity,[39] but also marked by the declining status of women,[40] and the incorporation of untouchability into an organised system of belief.[k][41] In South India, the Middle kingdoms exported Dravidian-languages scripts and religious cultures to the kingdoms of Southeast Asia.[42]

Republic of India
Bhārat Gaṇarājya

Flag

State emblem

Motto: "Satyameva Jayate" (Sanskrit)
"Truth Alone Triumphs"[1]

Anthem: "Jana Gana Mana" (Hindi)[a][2][3]
"Thou Art the Ruler of the Minds of All People"[4][2]

▶ 1:04

National song: "Vande Mataram" (Sanskrit)[c]
"I Bow to Thee, Mother"[b][1][2]

▶ 2:26

Territory controlled by India shown in dark green; territory claimed but not controlled shown in light green

Capital	New Delhi 28°36′50″N 77°12′30″E
Largest city	Mumbai (city proper) Delhi (metropolitan area)

In the early medieval era, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism became established on India's southern and western coasts.[43] Muslim armies from Central Asia intermittently overran India's northern plains,[44] eventually founding the Delhi Sultanate, and drawing northern India into the cosmopolitan networks of medieval Islam.[45] In the 15th century, the Vijayanagara Empire created a long-lasting composite Hindu culture in south India.[46] In the Punjab, Sikhism emerged, rejecting institutionalised religion.[47] The Mughal Empire, in 1526, ushered in two centuries of relative peace,[48] leaving a legacy of luminous architecture.[1][49] Gradually expanding rule of the British East India Company followed, turning India into a colonial economy, but also consolidating its sovereignty.[50] British Crown rule began in 1858. The rights promised to Indians were granted slowly,[51][52] but technological changes were introduced, and modern ideas of education and the public life took root.[53] A pioneering and influential nationalist movement emerged, which was noted for nonviolent resistance and became the major factor in ending British rule.[54][55] In 1947 the British Indian Empire was partitioned into two independent dominions,[56][57][58][59] a Hindu-majority Dominion of India and a Muslim-majority Dominion of Pakistan, amid large-scale loss of life and an unprecedented migration.[60]

India has been a federal republic since 1950, governed through a democratic parliamentary system. It is a pluralistic, multilingual and multi-ethnic society. India's population grew from 361 million in 1951 to almost 1.4 billion in 2022.[61] During the same time, its nominal per capita income increased from US$64 annually to US$2,601, and its literacy rate from 16.6% to 74%. From being a comparatively destitute country in 1951,[62] India has become a fast-growing major economy and a hub for information technology services, with an expanding middle class.[63] India has a space programme with several planned or completed extraterrestrial missions. Indian movies, music, and spiritual teachings play an increasing role in global culture.[64] India has substantially reduced its rate of poverty, though at the cost of increasing economic inequality.[65] India is a nuclear-weapon state, which ranks high in military expenditure. It has disputes over Kashmir with its neighbours, Pakistan and China, unresolved since the mid-20th century.[66] Among the socio-economic challenges India faces are gender

Official languages	Hindi · English[d][8]
Recognised regional languages	**State level** [show] **and Eighth Schedule**[9] 8th Scheduled Assamese · Bengali · Boro · Dogri · Gujarati · Hindi · Kannada · Kashmiri · Konkani · Maithili · Malayalam · Manipuri · Marathi · Nepali · Odia · Punjabi · Sanskrit · Santali · Sindhi · Tamil · Telugu · Urdu State level[e] Kokborok · Lepcha · Mizo · Sikkimese · all the 8th scheduled languages (except Sindhi, Kashmiri and Dogri[f])
Native languages	447 languages[g]
Religion (2011)	79.8% Hinduism 14.2% Islam 2.3% Christianity 1.7% Sikhism 0.7% Buddhism 0.4% Jainism 0.23% unaffiliated 0.65% other[12]
Demonym(s)	Indian · others
Government	Federal parliamentary republic
· President	Droupadi Murmu
· Vice President	Jagdeep Dhankhar
· Prime Minister	Narendra Modi
Legislature	Parliament
· Upper house	Rajya Sabha
· Lower house	Lok Sabha
Independence from the United Kingdom	
· Dominion	15 August 1947
· Republic	26 January 1950
Area	
· Total	3,287,263[2] km^2 (1,269,219 sq mi)[h]

inequality, child malnutrition,[67] and rising levels of air pollution.[68] India's land is megadiverse, with four biodiversity hotspots.[69] Its forest cover comprises 21.7% of its area.[70] India's wildlife, which has traditionally been viewed with tolerance in India's culture,[71] is supported among these forests, and elsewhere, in protected habitats.

Etymology

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary* (third edition 2009), the name "India" is derived from the Classical Latin *India*, a reference to South Asia and an uncertain region to its east. In turn the name "India" derived successively from Hellenistic Greek *India* (Ἰνδία), ancient Greek *Indos* (Ἰνδός), Old Persian *Hindush* (an eastern province of the Achaemenid Empire), and ultimately its cognate, the Sanskrit *Sindhu*, or "river", specifically the Indus River and, by implication, its well-settled southern basin.[72][73] The ancient Greeks referred to the Indians as *Indoi* (Ἰνδοί (h ttps://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcod es_name.php?code_ID=)), which translates as "The people of the Indus".[74]

The term *Bharat* (*Bhārat*; pronounced [ˈbʱaːrət]), mentioned in both Indian epic poetry and the Constitution of India,[75][76] is used in its variations by many Indian languages. A modern rendering of the historical name *Bharatavarsha*, which applied originally to North India,[77][78] *Bharat* gained increased currency from the mid-19th century as a native name for India.[75][79]

Hindustan ([ɦɪndʊˈstaːn]) is a Middle Persian name for India that became popular by the 13th century,[80] and was used widely since the era of the Mughal Empire. The meaning of *Hindustan* has varied, referring to a region encompassing present-day northern India and Pakistan or to India in its near entirety.[75][79][81]

History

Ancient India

By 55,000 years ago, the first modern humans, or *Homo sapiens*, had arrived on the Indian subcontinent from Africa, where they had earlier evolved.[27][28][29] The earliest known modern human remains in South Asia date to about 30,000 years ago.[27] After 6500 BCE, evidence for domestication of food crops and animals, construction of permanent structures, and storage of agricultural surplus appeared in Mehrgarh and other sites in Balochistan, Pakistan.[83] These

	(7th)
• Water (%)	9.6
Population	
• 2023 estimate	▲ 1,428,627,663[14] (1st)
• 2011 census	▲ 1,210,854,977[15][16] (2nd)
• Density	425.3/km² (1,101.5/sq mi) (30th)
GDP (PPP)	2024 estimate
• Total	▲ $14.594 trillion[17] (3rd)
• Per capita	▲ $10,123[17] (125th)
GDP (nominal)	2024 estimate
• Total	▲ $3.937 trillion[17] (5th)
• Per capita	▲ $2,731[17] (136th)
Gini (2021)	▼ 32.8[18] medium
HDI (2022)	▲ 0.644[19] medium (134th)
Currency	Indian rupee (₹) (INR)
Time zone	UTC+05:30 (IST)
	DST is not observed.
Date format	dd-mm-yyyy[i]
Driving side	left[20]
Calling code	+91
ISO 3166 code	IN
Internet TLD	.in (others)