

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 from 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 around 30,000 years ago, likely from Africa via the Horn of Africa. There is evidence of early human habitation in the region, including the discovery of stone tools and artifacts. The earliest known human remains found in India date back to approximately 200,000 years ago. The Neolithic period began around 12,000 years ago, bringing with it agriculture, settled communities, and the development of early civilizations. The Indus Valley Civilization, one of the oldest urban centers in the world, flourished between 3,300 and 1,300 BCE in what is now modern-day India and Pakistan. Other ancient civilizations include the Maurya Empire (322–185 BCE) and the Gupta Empire (3rd–5th centuries CE), which were known for their extensive trade networks, advanced mathematics, and contributions to science, philosophy, and art.