

Pakistan is the site of [several ancient cultures](#), including the 8,500-year-old [Neolithic](#) site of [Mehrgarh](#) in [Balochistan](#), the [Indus Valley Civilisation](#) of the [Bronze Age](#),^[8] and the ancient [Gandhara civilisation](#).^[9] The regions that compose the modern state of Pakistan were the realm of multiple empires and dynasties, including the [Achaemenid](#), the [Maurya](#), the [Kushan](#), the [Gupta](#);^[10] the [Umayyad Caliphate](#) in its southern regions, the [Hindu Shahis](#), the [Ghaznavids](#), the [Delhi Sultanate](#), the [Samma](#), the [Shah Miris](#), the [Mughals](#),^[11] and finally, the [British Raj](#) from 1858 to 1947.

India, officially the **Republic of India**,^{[i][20]} is a country in [South Asia](#). It is the [seventh-largest country by area](#); the [most populous country](#) since 2023;^[21] and, since its independence in 1947, the world's most populous democracy.^{[22][23][24]} 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;^[k] [China](#), [Nepal](#), and [Bhutan](#) to the north; and [Bangladesh](#) and [Myanmar](#) to the east. In the [Indian Ocean](#), India is near [Sri Lanka](#) and the [Maldives](#); its [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#) share a [maritime border](#) with Myanmar, [Thailand](#), and [Indonesia](#).