


**India** ( <sup>i</sup>/<sup>i</sup>ˈɪndiə/), officially the **Republic of India** (*Bhārat Gaṇarājya*),<sup>[12][c]</sup> is a country in [South Asia](#). It is the [seventh-largest](#) country by area, the [second-most populous](#) country with [over 1.2 billion people](#), and the most populous [democracy](#) in the world. Bounded by the [Indian Ocean](#) on the south, the [Arabian Sea](#) on the south-west, and the [Bay of Bengal](#) on the south-east, it shares land borders with [Pakistan](#) to the west;<sup>[d]</sup> [China](#), [Nepal](#), and [Bhutan](#) to the north-east; and [Burma](#) and [Bangladesh](#) to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of [Sri Lanka](#) and the [Maldives](#); in addition, India's [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#) share a maritime border with [Thailand](#) and [Indonesia](#).

Home to the ancient [Indus Valley Civilisation](#) and a region of historic trade routes and vast empires, the [Indian subcontinent](#) was identified with its commercial and cultural wealth for much of its long history.<sup>[13]</sup> Four religions—[Hinduism](#), [Buddhism](#), [Jainism](#), and [Sikhism](#)—originated here, whereas [Judaism](#), [Zoroastrianism](#), [Christianity](#), and [Islam](#) arrived in the 1st millennium [CE](#) and also helped shape the region's [diverse culture](#). Gradually annexed by and brought under the administration of the [British East India Company](#) from the early 18th century and [administered directly by the United Kingdom](#) after the [Indian Rebellion of 1857](#), India became an independent nation in 1947 after a [struggle for independence](#) that was marked by [non-violent resistance](#) led by [Mahatma Gandhi](#).

The [Indian economy](#) is the world's [tenth-largest by nominal GDP](#) and [third-largest by purchasing power parity](#) (PPP).<sup>[14]</sup> Following [market-based economic reforms](#) in 1991, India became one of the [fastest-growing major economies](#); it is considered a [newly industrialised country](#). However, it continues to face the challenges of [poverty](#), [corruption](#), [malnutrition](#), [inadequate public healthcare](#), and [terrorism](#). A [nuclear weapons state](#) and a [regional power](#), it has the [third-largest standing army](#) in the world and ranks [ninth in military expenditure](#) among nations. India is a [federal constitutional republic](#) governed under a [parliamentary system](#) consisting of [29 states and 7 union territories](#). India is a [pluralistic](#), [multilingual](#), and a multi-ethnic society. It is also home to a diversity of [wildlife](#) in a variety of [protected habitats](#).