

India

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Hindi, English, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Kannada, Odia, Malayalam, Punjabi, Assamese, Maithili

Population: 1,428,000,000

Currency: Indian Rupee (INR)

Area: 3,287,263

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Taj Mahal', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site in Agra, built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, renowned for its white marble architecture.'}

- {'name': 'Red Fort', 'writeup': "Historic fort in Delhi that served as the main residence of Mughal emperors, symbolizing India's rich history and independence."}

- {'name': 'Qutub Minar', 'writeup': 'A 73-meter tall minaret in Delhi, built in the early 13th century, representing Indo-Islamic architecture.'}

- {'name': 'Gateway of India', 'writeup': 'An iconic arch monument in Mumbai, built during the British Raj to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary.'}

- {'name': 'Hampi', 'writeup': 'Ruins of the Vijayanagara Empire capital, known for its ancient temples and unique Dravidian architecture.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Droupadi Murmu

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Diwali', 'writeup': 'The festival of lights celebrated across India symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.'}

- {'name': 'Holi', 'writeup': 'Known as the festival of colors, it marks the arrival of spring and celebrates love and the triumph of good.'}

- {'name': 'Durga Puja', 'writeup': 'A major Hindu festival in eastern India honoring the goddess Durga with elaborate rituals and cultural performances.'}

- {'name': 'Eid-ul-Fitr', 'writeup': 'A significant Islamic festival marking the end of Ramadan, celebrated with prayers and feasting.'}

- {'name': 'Pongal', 'writeup': 'A harvest festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu, thanking the Sun God for agricultural abundance.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Indian cuisine is diverse and characterized by the use of various spices, herbs, and regional ingredients. Popular dishes include biryani, dosa, samosas, butter chicken, and a wide variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options reflecting cultural and religious diversity.

Brief History:

India has a rich history dating back to the Indus Valley Civilization (c. 2500 BCE). It was home to major empires such as the Maurya and Gupta Empires, followed by Islamic Sultanates and the Mughal Empire. Colonized by the

British in the 18th century, India gained independence in 1947 and became a democratic republic.

Important People:

- Mahatma Gandhi - Leader of the Indian independence movement
- Jawaharlal Nehru - First Prime Minister of independent India
- Indira Gandhi - First female Prime Minister
- Rabindranath Tagore - Nobel laureate poet and philosopher
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar - Architect of the Indian Constitution

Current Conflicts:

India faces ongoing border disputes with neighboring countries such as China and Pakistan, particularly in regions like Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. Internal challenges include insurgencies and communal tensions in certain areas.

Youtube Links:

- India Travel Guide - Top Places to Visit in India
- The History of India in 10 Minutes
- Indian Culture and Traditions Explained
- Top 10 Indian Foods You Must Try
- India's Economic Growth and Challenges