

# INDIA - FACT SHEETS

## PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT

**Population :** 1.14 billion (*August 2009*)

**Indian Diaspora :** 22 million

**Young Demographic Profile :** 75% below 35 years; 50% below 25 years.

**Religions :** India is the birth place of many religions - Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. The predominant religious faiths present in India are: Hinduism (830 million), Islam (140million), Sikhism (19 million), Christianity (20 million), Buddhism (8 million), Jainism (*4 million*).

**Literacy:** Youth (*male 15- 24 yrs.*) 87%  
Youth (*female 15 -24 yrs.*) 77%

**Languages:** 22 National Languages have been listed in the Constitution of India, of which Hindi is the Official Language. Besides these, there are over 844 different dialects spoken in various parts of the country. English is widely spoken and is the language of commerce.

**Country Name :** Republic of India; Bharat Ganrajya

**Government Type:** Sovereign Socialist Democratic Republic with a Parliamentary system of Government.

**Administrative Divisions :** 28 States and 7 Union Territories.

**Independence :** 15th August 1947 (from British colonial rule)

**Constitution :** The Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950.

**Executive Branch:** The President of India is the Head of the State, while the Prime Minister is the Head of the Government, and runs office with the support of the Council of Ministers who form the Cabinet Ministry.

**Judicial Branch :** The Supreme Court of India is the apex body of the Indian legal system, followed by other High Courts and subordinate Courts.

**Head of State:** President Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

## GEOGRAPHY

- Location :** The Indian peninsula is separated from mainland Asia by the Himalayas. The Country is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal in the east, the Arabian Sea in the west, and the Indian Ocean to the south.
- Geographical Coordinates :** Lying entirely in the Northern Hemisphere, India extends between 8° 4' and 37° 6' latitudes north of the Equator, and 68° 7' and 97° 25' longitudes east of it. The country measures about 3,214 km from north to south and about 2,933 km from east to west.
- Indian Standard Time:** GMT + 05:30
- Area :** 3.3 Million sq. km
- Telephone Country Code :** +91
- National Capital :** New Delhi (*12.9 mn.*)
- Other Major Cities :** Mumbai (*16.3 mn.*)  
Kolkatta (*13.2 mn.*)  
Chennai (*6.4 mn.*)  
Bengaluru (*5.6 mn.*)  
Hyderabad (*5.3 mn.*)  
Ahmedabad (*4.5 mn.*)
- 35 cities** with a population over 1 million.
- Coastline :** The total length of the coastline is 7,516.6 km ,encompassing the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Climate :** The climate of India can broadly be classified as a tropical monsoon one. But, in spite of much of the northern part of India lying beyond the tropical zone, virtually the entire country has a tropical climate marked by relatively high temperatures and dry winters. There are four seasons:
1. winter (December-February)
  2. summer (March-June)
  3. south-west monsoon season (June-September)
  4. post monsoon season (October-November)
- Terrain :** The mainland comprises of four regions, namely the great mountain zone, plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region, and the southern peninsula.
- Natural Resources :** Coal, iron ore, manganese ore, mica, bauxite, petroleum, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, magnesite, limestone, arable land, dolomite, barytes, kaolin, gypsum, apatite, phosphorite, steatite, fluorite, etc.
- Neighbouring Countries :** Afghanistan and Pakistan to the north-west; China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north; Myanmar to the east; and Bangladesh to the east of West Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea, formed by Palk

Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

## INDIA ECONOMY

**Composition of GDP :** The Indian economy is based overwhelmingly on services, which account for 57.3% of GDP; industry for 25.8%; agriculture for 17%.

**Financial Year :** April 1 - March 31

**GDP (current prices) :** US\$1.18 trillion (*IMF forecast 2009*)

**GDP Growth :** 6.7% (*2009 Union Budget*)

**Foreign Exchange Reserves :** US\$ 254 bn. (*June 2009*)

**Main natural resources :** Coal, Iron Ore, Bauxite, Manganese and Chromium.

**Principal crops :** Wheat, Rice, Maize, Sugarcane

**Currency :** A\$ 1= Rs. 39.44 / US\$ 1 = Rs.47.74 (*Aug. 2009*)

**Inflation :** 6.26% (*2009 Estimate*)

**FDI Investments :** US\$27.3 bn. (*April 2008 - March 2009*)

**FII Investments :** US\$5,562 mn. (*Jan. 1 2009 - 2 Jun 2009*)

**Leading Investing Countries :** Mauritius, Singapore, USA, U.K., Netherlands

## TRADE

INDICATOR	2008 - 2009 (Apr. - Dec.)	2007 - 2008
India's Total Trade	386.33 bn.	414.54 bn.
India's Total Exports	131 bn.	162.98 bn.
India's Total Imports	235.33 bn.	251.56 bn.

*(All figures in US\$)*

**Top 10 Export Destinations:** USA, UAE, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, Netherlands, U.K., Germany, Saudi Arabia and Belgium.

**Top 10 Import Sources:** China, Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA, Switzerland, Iran, Germany, Nigeria, Kuwait and Australia

**STATISTICS FOR TOP 10 IMPORT SOURCES (2008 – 09; Apr - Dec.)**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>VALUE (in US\$ bn.)</b>
CHINA	24.2
SAUDI ARABIA	17.02
U.A.E.	15.46
U.S.A.	13.9
SWITZERLAND	10.8
IRAN	10.1
GERMANY	8.3
NIGERIA	8.1
KUWAIT	7.9
AUSTRALIA	7.6

**STATISTICS FOR TOP 10 EXPORT DESTINATIONS (2008 –09; Apr - Dec.)**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>EXPORTS VALUE (in US\$ bn.)</b>
U.S.A.	15.7
U.A.E.	14.6
SINGAPORE	6.5
CHINA	6.1
HONG KONG	4.8
NETHERLANDS	4.8
U.K.	4.6
GERMANY	4.3
SAUDI ARABIA	4.09
BELGIUM	3.46