

INDIA & THE WORLD

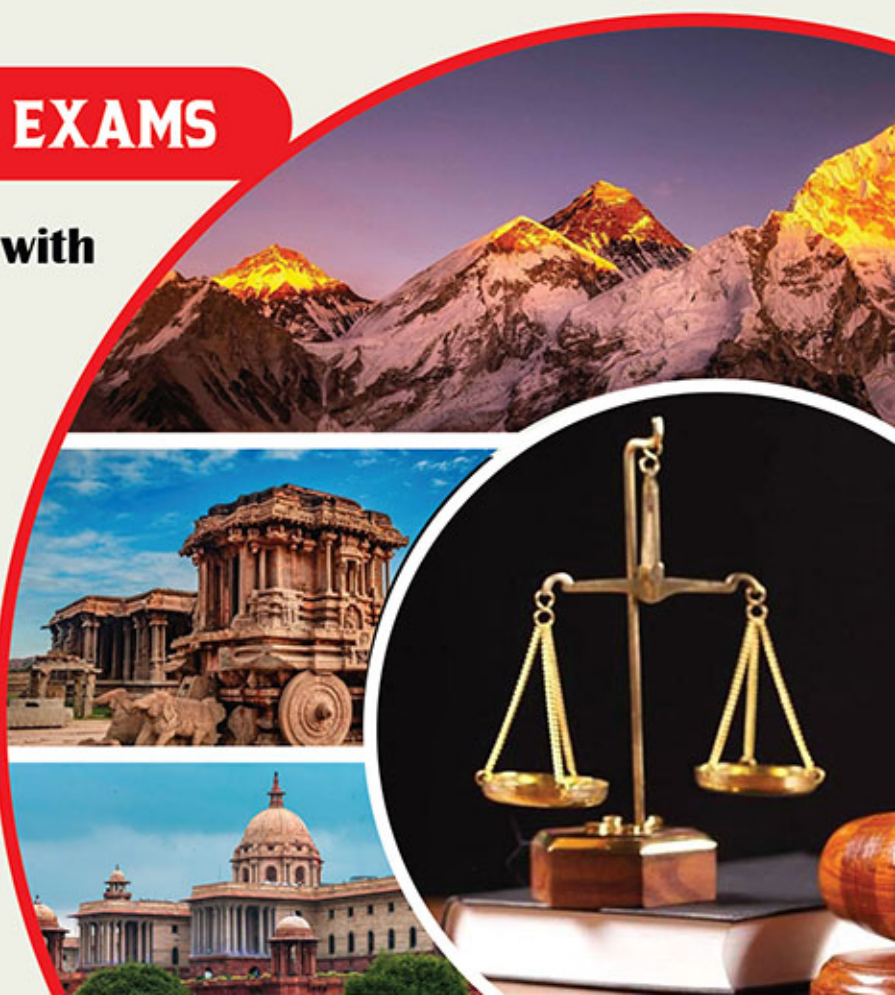


GENERAL KNOWLEDGE FACT FINDER 2027

FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

This book has been crafted with updated facts & figures from important GK/GS topics & chapters that are most frequently asked in today's exams.

GK GS



INDIA & THE WORLD
General Knowledge
FACT FINDER
2027

India & World General Knowledge: Fact Finder is designed for aspirants of UPSC, State PSCs, and other competitive examinations. In today's exams, greater emphasis is placed on dynamic GK-GS topics, where new facts are regularly added and linked with current affairs.

This book presents updated facts and figures from important and frequently asked topics, helping aspirants connect static knowledge with current relevance. Carefully curated and exam-oriented, it serves as a reliable guide for effective preparation.

- A Smart Guide for Effective Preparation

Editor

N.N. Ojha

Compiled by

Chronicle Editorial Team



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India: A Snapshot

Brief Profile

India, a South Asian nation, is the seventh-largest country by area, the most populous country with over 1.4 billion people (UNFPA State of World Population 2025 Report), and the most populous democracy in the world.

- **Capital:** Delhi
- **Extent:** India measures 3,214 km from north to south and 2,933 km from east to west.
- **Total Area:** 3,287,263 sq km (**Land Area** 2,973,193 sq km - 91%); **Water Area:** 314,070 sq km - 9%) - (Seventh Largest Country)
- **Land Boundary:** India has a total land boundary of approximately 15,200 km.
- **Coastline:** Recently revised to 11098.81 km (Earlier 7,517 km), including the mainland, the coastlines of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea.
- **States/UTs:** 28 States 8 Union Territories (The state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated to two UTs - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and came into existence on 31st October 2019. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu were merged to form one UT and came into existence on 26th January 2020).

Population	Census 2011: 1,210,854,977 (2nd populous country after China and 17% of World Population) UNFPA State of World Population 2025 Report: 1.4 billion (Most populous country in the world; About 17.8% of the estimated world population of 8.2 billion.)
Density of Population	382 per Sq. Km. (Census 2011)
Sex Ratio	Census 2011: 943 NFHS 5: 1020
Literacy	Census 2011: 74.04% (Male: 82.14; Female: 65.46) Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24: 80.9% (Male: 87.2%, Female: 74.6%)
Life Expectancy	NFHS 5: 72.48 years Human Development Report 2025: 72 years in 2023
Official Languages	English, Hindi

India: Geographic Profile

Location and Physical Size

- **Hemisphere:** India is situated entirely in the Northern Hemisphere.
- **Global Standing:** It is the 7th largest country in the world by land area.
- **Natural Boundaries:**
 - ◆ **North:** The Himalayan mountain ranges.
 - ◆ **South:** The Indian Ocean.
 - ◆ **West:** The Arabian Sea and the Lakshadweep Sea.
 - ◆ **East:** The Bay of Bengal.

Geographical Extent and Dimensions

- **Latitudinal Range:** Extends from 8°4' N to 37°6' N.
- **Longitudinal Range:** Extends from 68°7' E to 97°25' E.
- **Degree Span:** Both the latitudinal and longitudinal extent of the country is approximately 30°.
- **Physical Distance:**
 - ◆ **North to South:** Approximately 3,214 km.
 - ◆ **East to West:** Approximately 2,933 km.

Frontiers and Coastlines

- **Land Frontier:** India shares a land border of approximately 15,200 km.
- **Coastline:**
 - ◆ **Traditional Measurement:** 7,516.6 km.
 - ◆ **Revised Measurement:** Recently updated to 11,098.81 km (an increase of roughly 48%).

Implications of Latitudinal Extent (Tropic of Cancer)

- **Division:** The Tropic of Cancer (23°30' N) passes through the center, dividing India into two nearly equal parts.
- **Climatic Zones:**
 - ◆ The southern half lies in the **Tropical Zone**.
 - ◆ The northern half lies in the **Sub-tropical Zone**.
- **Diversity:** This positioning causes significant variations in climate, soil types, natural vegetation, and agricultural practices across the country.
- **States Traversed:** The Tropic of Cancer passes through **eight states:** Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram.

Implications of Longitudinal Extent (Time Zone)

- **Local Time Gap:** The 30° longitudinal span results in a 2-hour time difference between the easternmost

India: Economic Profile

India has solidified its position as a global economic powerhouse, transitioning into a high-growth phase driven by structural reforms, digital innovation, and massive infrastructure spending.

Macroeconomic Standing

- **4th Largest Economy:** In 2025, India surpassed Japan to become the world’s fourth-largest economy.
- **GDP Size and Future Projections:** According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India’s GDP stands at approximately \$4.3 trillion. It is projected to reach around \$5.5 trillion by 2028 and expected to overtake Germany and become the third-largest economy globally.
- **Growth Rate:** Real GDP continues to grow at a resilient 6.5–7% annually, making India the fastest-growing major economy.
- **Vision 2047:** The long-term goal remains achieving “Viksit Bharat” (Developed India) by 2047, requiring sustained growth of over 8%.

Sectoral Composition

- **Services (54–56%):** The primary growth engine, dominated by IT-BPM, fintech, and professional services.
- **Industry (26–28%):** Bolstered by the **PLI (Production Linked Incentive)** schemes and “Make in India,” focusing on electronics, pharmaceuticals, and semiconductors.
- **Agriculture (15–17%):** Despite a lower share in GDP, it remains the largest employer, supporting **42% of the workforce**. Key initiatives like PM-KISAN and the Agri-Infrastructure Fund focus on modernization.

External Sector & FDI

- **FDI Inflows:** From 2000 to 2025, **Mauritius (25%)** and **Singapore (24%)** remained the top investors. Major sectors attracting FDI include Services (16%) and Computer Software/Hardware (15%).
- **Trade:** Major exports include petroleum products, software, and pharma. India remains relatively resilient to global shocks due to lower export dependence (20% of GDP) and robust domestic consumption.

Digital & Physical Infrastructure

- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Through the “India Stack” (UPI, Aadhaar, ONDC), the digital economy is projected to contribute **20% of GDP by 2028**.
- **Connectivity:** Projects like **PM Gati Shakti** and **Bharatmala** have accelerated highway construction and rail modernization, reducing logistics costs.

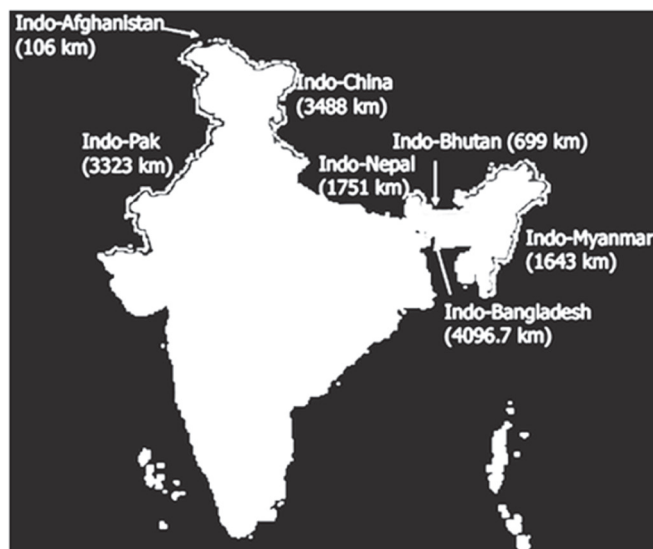
Fiscal & Employment Outlook

- **Fiscal Consolidation:** The government is on track to bring the fiscal deficit down toward **4.5% of GDP**.

- **Employment:** While the startup ecosystem thrives, challenges remain in formalizing the workforce (80-85% remains informal) and increasing high-skill manufacturing jobs.

India’s Neighbourhood

India shares its land borders with 7 countries– Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and maritime border with 2 countries – Sri Lanka and Maldives.



INDIA'S LAND BORDER		
Country	Land Border Length (in km)	Bordering States/UTs
Afghanistan	106	Ladakh (PoK)
Bhutan	699	West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam
Myanmar	1,643	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram
Nepal	1,751	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim
Pakistan	3,323	Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat
China	3,488	Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh
Bangladesh	4,097	West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram

MARITIME BORDER	
Country	Maritime Border
Sri Lanka	India and Sri Lanka share their maritime border in the Gulf of Mannar. The Indian state of Tamil Nadu and Jaffna District of Sri Lanka are separated by Palk Strait and Palk Bay. The Adam's Bridge or Ramsethu connects Rameswaram (India) with Mannar Island (Sri Lanka).

BIHAR

- **Statehood:** 22 March 1912.
- **Capital:** Patna
- **Area:** 94,163 sq km
- **Districts:** 38 (**Largest-** West Champaran, **Smallest-** Sheohar)
- **Bordering States/ Country:** Nepal in the north; West Bengal in the east; Jharkhand in the south; and Uttar Pradesh in the west.
- **Population:** 10,40,99,452 (2011)- (3rd Populous State)
- **Density of Population:** 1,106 (most densely populated state)
- **Sex Ratio:** 918
- **Literacy:** 61.80% (**Male:** 71.20%; **Female:** 51.50%); Poorest state in literacy in India.
- **Legislature: (Bi-cameral)/ Members of Legislative Assembly:** 243. **Members of Legislative Council:** 75)
- **Members of Lok Sabha:** 40; **Members of Rajya Sabha:** 16.
- **UNESCO Heritage Sites:** Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda
- **Dances:** Bideshiya, Domkach, Fagua, Jat-Jatin, Jhijhian, Jhumri, Kajari, Sohar, etc.
- **Tiger Reserves (1):** Valmiki Tiger Reserve
- **Ramsar Site (6):** Gogabeel Lake, Gokul Reservoir, Kanwar Lake, Nagi Bird Sanctuary, Nakti lake, Udaypur Lake
- **Longest River:** Ganga
- **Highest Peak:** Parasnath
- **Climate:** The region is characterized by a Humid Sub-tropical climate according to the Köppen classification.
- **Agriculture:** Bihar leads the world in Makhana (90%) and India in Litchi production, with GI tags for “Mithila Makhana” and “Shahi Litchi.” It holds the 3rd rank in maize production (1st in productivity) and is the 2nd largest producer of Tussar silk, centered in Bhagalpur.
- **Economy:** Agriculture is the backbone of the state, providing employment to nearly 80% of the population.
- **Industry:** The industrial sector is primarily agro-based, with a long history of sugar mill operations in North Bihar. The Barauni Refinery serves as a major industrial pillar and a key driver of the state’s economy.

STATE SYMBOLS

- **Animal** – Gaur
- **Bird** – House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
- **Flower** – Kachnar
- **Tree** – Peepal

CHHATTISGARH

- **Statehood:** Carved out of Madhya Pradesh as the 26th state of India on 1st November, 2000.
- **Capital:** Raipur
- **Area:** 1,36,034 sq km

- **Districts:** 33 (**Largest** – Rajnandgaon)
- **Bordering States:** Madhya Pradesh in the northwest; Uttar Pradesh in the north, Jharkhand in northeast, Maharashtra in the southwest, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in the south, and Odisha in the southeast.
- **Population:** 25,545,198 (2011)
- **Density of Population:** 190
- **Sex Ratio:** 991
- **Literacy:** 70.01 % (**Male:** 80.27%; **Female:** 60.24%)
- **Legislature: (Unicameral)/ Members of Legislative Assembly:** 90
- **Members of Lok Sabha:** 11; **Members of Rajya Sabha:** 5
- **Dances:** Saila Dance, Karma, Sua Nacha, Pandavani, Panthi Dance, Raut Nacha, Jhirliti, Gendi, etc.
- **Tiger Reserves (4):** Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, Indravati, Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla
- **Ramsar Site (1):** Kopra Reservoir
- **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Reserve (1):** Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve
- **Longest River:** Mahanadi
- **Highest Peak:** Bailadila Range (The highest named peak is Gaurkata)
- **Economic Strength:** Mining (Coal/Iron), Steel, and Rice.
- **Climate:** Tropical Monsoon (Hot Summer, Pleasant Winter).
- **Rainfall:** 1,200–1,600 mm (South-West Monsoon).
- **Primary Soil:** Red and Yellow Soil (Matasi), perfect for the state’s signature Rice production.
- **Climate:** The region is characterized by a Tropical Wet and Dry climate (Aw) according to the Köppen classification.
- **Agriculture:** Known as the “Rice Bowl of Central India,” Chhattisgarh produces over 20,000 varieties of rice. It has recently emerged as a “Millet Hub,” promoting Ragi and Kodo-Kutki. The state holds the GI tag for “Nagri Dubraj” rice. It is also a major producer of “Kosa Silk,” which is world-renowned for its texture and purity.
- **Economy:** The state’s economy is heavily driven by its vast mineral wealth; it is the only state in India that produces Tin concentrates and is a leading producer of Coal, Iron Ore, and Limestone. It is considered a “Power Surplus” state, supplying electricity to various parts of the country. Additionally, nearly 44% of the state is forested, making it a major collector of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) like Tendu leaves.
- **Industry:** Chhattisgarh is a powerhouse of heavy industry. It is home to the Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL), one of the largest in India, and the Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) in Korba. The state is a massive hub for the cement industry due to abundant limestone deposits and hosts several large-scale thermal power plants operated by NTPC and state utilities.

World-Fact File

World at a Glance

There are seven continents and five oceans on Earth. Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Australia, and Antarctica are the continents. There are five oceans: the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, and the Southern Ocean.

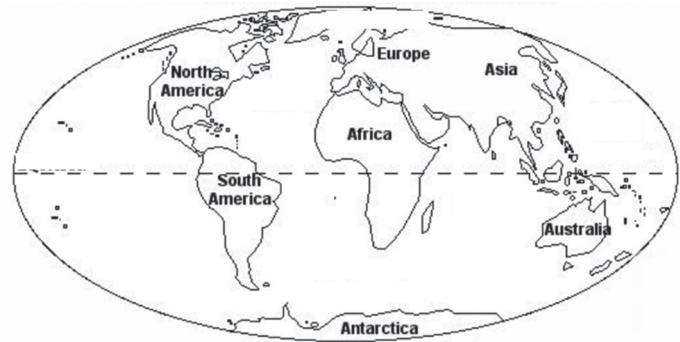
- **Total Land Area:** 148,940,000 sq km (29.2% of Planet Earth's surface)
- **Total Water Area:** 361,132,000 sq km (70.8% of Planet Earth's surface)
- **Total Population:** 8.1 billion
- **Total Continent:** 7 (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Australia, Antarctica)
- **Total Ocean:** 5 (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, Arctic)
- **UN Recognized Countries:** 193
- **Primary Tectonic Plates:** 8 (African, Antarctic, Australian, Eurasian, Indian, North American, Pacific, South American)
- **Largest Continent:** Asia, 43,820,000 sq km (29.5% of total World landmass)
- **Smallest Continent:** Australia, 9,008,500 sq km
- **Largest Country:** Russia, 17,098,242 sq km
- **Smallest Country:** Vatican City - 0.44 sq km
- **Most Populated Country:** India- 1.4 billion (about 17.8% of the estimated world population of 8.2 billion.)
- **Least Populated Country:** Holy See (Vatican City) - 501
- **Newest Country:** South Sudan
- **Richest Country of the World:** Luxembourg (US\$ 137,516.6 Per Capita in 2024)
- **Poorest Country of the World:** South Sudan (US \$934 Per Capita in 2022)
- **Largest Ocean:** The Pacific Ocean - 155,557,000 sq km
- **Smallest Ocean:** Arctic, 14,056,000 sq km
- **Highest Mountain:** Mount Everest, 29,029 ft - Nepal
- **Longest River:** The Nile - 6,650 km
- **Largest Lake:** The Caspian Sea - 371,000 sq km
- **Largest Peninsula:** Arabian Peninsula
- **Deepest Point:** Challenger Deep
- **Largest Delta:** Sundarban Delta, India
- **Largest Desert:** Sahara Desert
- **Largest Economy:** USA

Continents of the World

There are seven Continents in the World. They together occupy 29% of the surface area of the world. More than two third of this continental mass is located in Northern Hemisphere.

Seven Continents

1. Asia
2. Africa
3. North America
4. South America
5. Europe
6. Australia & Oceania
7. Antarctica



Asia

Asia is the largest continent, about one-third of the world. It contains 60 per cent of the global population i.e. around 4.75 billion people. Of the 10 nations with the largest populations, six are in Asia - China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Japan.

- **Area:** About 30% of Earth's Total Land Area and 8% of Earth's Total Surface Area (Largest Continent)
- **No. of Countries:** 48
- **Population:** Most Populated Continent (61.84% of the total world population)
- **Largest Country:** Russia
- **Smallest Country:** Maldives
- **Most Populated Country:** India (According to World Population Review)
- **Least Populated Country:** Maldives
- **Longest River:** Yangtze River (China)
- **Largest Lake:** Caspian Sea
- **Highest Point:** Mount Everest (Nepal)
- **Lowest Point:** Dead Sea (Jordan/Israel, Lowest Point in the World)
- **Highest Plateau:** Tibet
- **Largest Island:** Borneo (Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei)
- **Largest Manmade Lake:** Dhebar Lake (Bhopal, India)
- **Largest Desert:** Gobi Desert (Mongolia and China)
- **Wettest Place:** Mawsynram, Meghalaya (India)
- **Driest Place:** Aden (Yemen)
- **Longest Railway Network:** Trans-Siberian Railway (Russia)
- **Countries of Asia which also lie in other Continents:** Turkey and Russia
- **Largest City (Population-wise):** Tokyo
- **Busiest Waterways:** Suez Canal

History of India

History of Ancient India

Ancient India was a cradle of civilization, thought, and innovation. From the urban brilliance of Harappa, the spiritual quest of Vedas, to the intellectual renaissance of the Guptas, it laid the foundations of India's cultural unity, tolerance, and scientific spirit — values that continue to define India today.

The ancient history of India spans from the prehistoric Stone Age (c. 2.5 million years ago) to around the 8th century CE, when early medieval states began to rise. This era saw the birth of civilization, urbanization, empires, religions, philosophy, and art that shaped India's cultural identity.

India's ancient past is divided broadly into:

- ♦ **Prehistoric Period** – Stone Age and Metal Age
- ♦ **Protohistoric Period** – Indus Valley Civilization
- ♦ **Historic Period** – Vedic Age to Gupta and Post-Gupta empires

Stone Age and Metal Age

1. Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age)

- **Period:** 2.5 million – 10,000 BCE
- Humans were **hunter-gatherers**, using **hand-axes, cleavers, and choppers** made of stone.
- **Major Sites:** Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh), Kurnool Caves (Andhra Pradesh), Belan Valley (U.P.), Hunsgi (Karnataka).
- Bhimbetka's rock shelters (UNESCO site) show the **earliest evidence of art** in India (cave paintings).

KEY FACTS

- Bhimbetka Rock Shelters – discovered by V.S. Wankar (1957).

2. Mesolithic Age (Middle Stone Age)

- **Period:** 10,000 – 6000 BCE
- **Characterized by** microlithic tools (tiny stone tools).
- People domesticated animals and began semi-sedentary life.
- **Sites:** Bagor (Rajasthan), Langhnaj (Gujarat), Adamgarh (M.P.).
- Evidence of first domesticated animals and burials.

3. Neolithic Age (New Stone Age)

- **Period:** 6000 – 2000 BCE
- Marked by agriculture, pottery, and settled villages.
- **Crops:** Wheat, barley, rice (first evidence of rice from Koldihwa, U.P.).

• Sites:

- ♦ **Mehrgarh (Pakistan)** – earliest farming & animal domestication.
- ♦ **Burzahom (Kashmir)** – pit dwellings, bone tools.
- ♦ **Chirand (Bihar)** – early rice cultivation.

4. Chalcolithic Age (Copper-Stone Age)

- **Period:** 3000 – 1000 BCE
- **Tools:** Use of copper tools alongside stone; beginning of metal culture.
- **Key Sites:** Ahar–Banas (Rajasthan), Malwa (M.P.), Jorwe (Maharashtra).
- **Pottery:** Black and Red Ware (BRW), Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP).
- Marks transition to the urban phase — leading to the Indus Valley Civilization.

Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) / Harappan Civilization

- **Period:** c. 2600 – 1900 BCE (Mature Phase)
- **Spread:** Northwestern India and Pakistan – covering Sindh, Punjab, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan.
- **Discovered by** R.D. Banerjee (1922) and Sir John Marshall at Harappa & Mohenjo-Daro.

FEATURES OF IVC

Urban Planning	Grid pattern, baked brick houses, drainage system
Major Sites	Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Dholavira (Gujarat), Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Lothal (Gujarat), Rakhigarhi (Haryana)
Economy	Agriculture (wheat, barley, cotton), trade (Mesopotamia), use of seals and weights
Script	Undeciphered pictographic script
Religion	Mother Goddess worship, proto-Shiva (Pashupati), sacred trees and animals
Art	Bronze statue of "Dancing Girl" (Mohenjo-Daro), Bearded Priest, terracotta figurines
Decline	c. 1900 BCE – causes debated: climate change, river shift (Saraswati), decline in trade

KEY FACTS

- **Dholavira** (Gujarat) — UNESCO World Heritage Site (2021).
- **Lothal** — earliest **dockyard** in the world.
- **Rakhigarhi** — largest Harappan site in India.

Indian Economy

Indian Economy at a Glance

The **Economic Survey 2025-26** characterizes India as being in a “Goldilocks Zone”—a rare macroeconomic state of high growth paired with low inflation. The survey highlights India’s position as the fastest-growing major economy, driven by structural reforms and robust domestic demand.

Macroeconomic Snapshot

- **Real GDP Growth:** Estimated at **7.4%** for FY 2025-26, with a projected growth range of 6.8% to 7.2% for the following fiscal year.
- **Growth Drivers:** Private Final Consumption Expenditure has reached a decade-high share of GDP, signaling strong internal demand.
- **Investment:** Central government capital expenditure remains at a historic **4% of GDP**, effectively “crowding in” private investment.

Fiscal and Monetary Health

- **Fiscal Consolidation:** The government is on track to achieve a fiscal deficit of **4.4% of GDP**, down from pandemic peaks.
- **Tax Performance:** Direct taxes now account for nearly half of gross tax revenue, reflecting improved compliance and tax buoyancy.
- **Inflation Control:** Headline retail inflation averaged a historic low of **1.7%**, largely due to a sharp decline in food prices and effective supply-side management.

External Sector Resilience

- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** Moderated to a comfortable **0.8% of GDP**, supported by strong services exports.
- **Forex and Remittances:** India maintains robust foreign exchange reserves covering 11 months of imports and remains the global leader in remittances, receiving over **\$135 billion**.
- **Global Standing:** India is transitioning from “Aatmanirbhar” to “**Strategic Indispensability**,” becoming a vital node in global value chains.

Sectoral Performance

- **Services and Industry:** The services sector contributes **54% to GDP**, while manufacturing grew by over 9% in the second quarter.

- **Agriculture:** Horticulture production has significantly surpassed foodgrain production, indicating a shift toward high-value farming.
- **Banking:** The financial sector is at a multi-decade high in health, with **Gross NPAs falling to 2.2%**.

Employment and Social Progress

- **Labor Market:** Total employment reached **56.2 crore**, with a notable 6% year-on-year increase in organized manufacturing jobs.
- **Digital and Rural Reach:** Over **81% of rural households** now have tap water access, and India’s rank in the Global Innovation Index has climbed to **38th**.
- **Creative Economy:** The survey introduces a focus on the “**Orange Economy**,” recognizing the rising economic contribution of creative and cultural sectors.

Per Capita Income

Per Capita Income (PCI) is defined as the average income earned per person in a given area (city, region, country) in a specified year. It is calculated by dividing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Net National Income (NNI) by the total population.

$$\text{Per Capita Income} = \frac{\text{GDP or NNI}}{\text{Total Population}}$$

It serves as an indicator of the **standard of living, economic development, and income distribution** in a country.

Current Status in India

As per Government of India (MoSPI)

Indicator	Value (2024–25)
GDP per capita (INR)	Rs. 234,859
NNI per capita (INR)	Rs. 205,324
GDP per capita (USD)	US \$2,700–2,880
GDP per capita (PPP)	US \$7,500–8,000

(Source: MoSPI, World Bank, IMF)

India’s per capita income has **increased consistently**, but it remains **lower** compared to middle-income or developed economies due to high population and unequal income distribution.

Agriculture

Agriculture Sector in India

Agriculture in India is the primary source of livelihood for nearly half the population. It encompasses a broad range of activities, including crop production, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, and forestry, serving as the foundation for food security and industrial raw material supply.

Current Status

- **GDP Contribution:** Agriculture and allied activities contribute approximately **16%** to India's GDP at current prices.
- **Employment:** The sector remains the largest employer, supporting about **46.1%** of the national workforce.
- **Economic Shift:** While its share in the national income has gradually declined due to the growth of services and industry, its strategic importance for rural stability remains paramount.

KEY FACTS

- India is the **world's largest producer** of milk, pulses, and jute.
- It ranks **second globally** in the production of rice, wheat, sugarcane, groundnuts, vegetables, and fruit.
- The "**Green Revolution**" (1960s) led by M.S. Swaminathan transitioned India from a food-deficit to a food-surplus nation.

Government Initiatives

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):** Provides income support to all eligible farmer families.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):** A crop insurance scheme to protect farmers against yield losses due to natural calamities.
- **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM):** An online trading platform for agricultural commodities to ensure better price discovery for farmers.
- **Soil Health Card Scheme:** Provides farmers with information on the nutrient status of their soil and recommendations on appropriate fertilizer dosages.
- **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):** Promotes organic farming.
- **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):** Focuses on the holistic growth of the horticulture sector.
- **Agricultural Mechanization Sub-Mission (SMAM):** Promotes the use of farm machinery.

- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM):** Aims to increase the production of food grains and other crops.
- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme:** Provides timely and adequate credit support to farmers.

Constitutional, Legal & Global Provisions

- **Constitutional:** Agriculture is a **State Subject** (Entry 14, Seventh Schedule). **Article 48** (DPSP) directs the State to organize agriculture on scientific lines.
- **Legal:** The **Essential Commodities Act (1955)** empowers the government to regulate the supply and pricing of food items.
- **Global/UN:** India is a signatory to the **WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)**. It collaborates with the **FAO** and **IFAD** for food security and rural development. Under the **Paris Agreement**, India is committed to developing climate-resilient agricultural practices.
- **Regulatory Body & Institutions**
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- **ICAR:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Apex body for research and education).
- **NABARD:** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Apex development finance institution).
- **FCI:** Food Corporation of India (Manages food grain procurement and distribution).
- **APEDA:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

Agricultural Regions of India

An agricultural region is defined as an area having homogeneity in relief, soil type, climatic conditions, farming practices, crops produced and crop combination. As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the agricultural regions in India can be classified as-

Rice-Jute-Tea Region

- **Area:** This vast region includes lowlands, valleys and river deltas in the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Orissa, northern and eastern Bihar parts of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Rainfall:** The rainfall varies from 180 to 250 cm.
- **Crops:** Rice are the predominant crop due to fertile alluvial soils, abundant rainfall and high summer temperatures.
 - ♦ Jute is mainly grown in the Hugli basin of West Bengal but some areas have been brought under jute cultivation in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Orissa and Tarai region of U.P.

Animal Husbandry & Dairying in India

Animal Husbandry is the branch of agriculture concerned with the scientific breeding, feeding, healthcare, and management of livestock. It involves raising animals like cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry to obtain essential products such as milk, meat, eggs, wool, and honey, while also providing draft power for agricultural operations.

Current Status

- **Economic Contribution:** The livestock sector contributes approximately 5.5% to India's total Gross Value Added (GVA) and over 30% to the Agricultural GVA.
- **Growth Rate:** It has maintained a robust Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of about 8% over the last five years, consistently outperforming the crop sector.
- **Livelihood:** It provides employment and income security to nearly 20.5 million people, serving as a critical safety net for small and marginal farmers during crop failures.

KEY FACTS

- **Livestock Population:** According to the 20th Livestock Census, India possesses the largest livestock population in the world at 535.78 million.
- **Buffalo Capital:** India holds the largest population of buffaloes in the world, which are the primary contributors to the country's milk pool.
- **White Revolution:** India's modern dairy journey began with the establishment of the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** in 1965 under the leadership of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, the father of the **White Revolution**.
- **Operation Flood:** Launched in **1970**, it replicated the successful Anand (Amul) model nationwide, linking rural producers to urban markets.

Key Production Statistics

Milk

- **Production:** India Global rank is **1st** in milk production. It contributes roughly 25% of global output.
- **Per Capita Availability of Milk:** 485 gm/day in 2024-25.
- **Top 5 Milk producing States:** Uttar Pradesh (15.66%), Rajasthan (14.82%), Madhya Pradesh (9.12%), Gujarat (7.78%), Maharashtra (6.71%).

Egg

- **Production:** India is **2nd** in Egg production globally.
- **Per Capita Availability of Eggs:** 106 nos/annum in 2024-25.
- **Major Egg Producing States:** Andhra Pradesh (18.37%) followed by Tamil Nadu (15.63%), Telangana (12.98%), West Bengal (10.72%) and Karnataka (6.67%).

Meat

- **Production:** India's global rank in meat production is **4th**. The meat production from poultry contributes about half of total meat production.
- **Top Five Meat Producing States:** West Bengal (12.46%), Uttar Pradesh (12.20%), Maharashtra (11.57%), Andhra Pradesh (10.84%) and Telangana (10.49%).

Wool

- **Top Five Wool Producing States:** Rajasthan (47.85%) followed by Jammu & Kashmir (22.88%), Gujarat (6.22%), Maharashtra (4.75%) and Himachal Pradesh (4.30%).

Government Initiatives

- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM):** Launched for the conservation and genetic upgradation of indigenous bovine breeds. It utilizes advanced technologies like **Sexed Semen** (90% female calf accuracy), Artificial Insemination (AI) through **MAITRIs** (rural technicians), and progeny testing to boost milk productivity.
- **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD):** Focuses on creating and strengthening infrastructure for milk procurement, processing, and quality testing. It aims to modernize the dairy supply chain through state dairy federations.
- **National Dairy Plan (NDP-I & II):** Implemented by the NDDB, this scientifically-driven program enhances animal productivity and improves market access for milk producers in both organized and unorganized sectors.
- **Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF):** A specialized fund dedicated to the modernization of aging dairy plants, establishment of chilling units, and value-added product manufacturing to reduce post-harvest losses.
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF):** A ₹15,000 crore initiative under **Atmanirbhar Bharat** that incentivizes private companies, MSMEs, and FPOs to invest in dairy processing, meat processing, and animal feed plants.
- **Livestock Health & Disease Control Programme (LH-DCP):** A flagship scheme providing free vaccinations for major diseases like **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** and Brucellosis. It includes the "Pashu Aushadhi" initiative to provide affordable veterinary medicines.
- **National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM):** A technology-led initiative to create a digital ecosystem for the livestock sector, enabling animal traceability, health monitoring, and efficient delivery of government services.

Banking & Insurance

Banking Sector in India

The banking sector forms the backbone of India's financial system, ensuring credit flow, financial stability, and economic growth. It has undergone significant transformation — from indigenous banking in the pre-independence era to modern digital banking and global integration.

Current Status of Indian Banking (2025)

- **Size:** Over 12 public sector banks, 21 private banks, 43 foreign banks, 56 regional rural banks, 1,500+ cooperative banks.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Jan Dhan Yojana opened 51+ crore accounts.
- **Digital Banking:** UPI crossed **14 billion monthly transactions (2025)**; India among world leaders in fintech adoption.
- **NPAs:** Reduced to about 3% (lowest in a decade) due to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- **Capital Adequacy:** Indian banks largely compliant with Basel-III norms.
- **Global Standing:** SBI ranked among world's top 50 banks; India's fintech ecosystem 3rd largest globally.

FDI IN BANKING SECTOR

- **Private Sector Banks:** The FDI limit is capped at 74 percent of the paid-up capital. Up to 49 percent investment is allowed under the Automatic Route, whereas investment beyond 49 percent and up to 74 percent requires Government Approval.
- **Public Sector Banks:** (Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India is 20% under the government approval route. The government is planning to raise this limit to 49%.

Evolution of Indian Banking

The history of banking in India dates back to 1770 when the **Bank of Hindostan** was established, marking the beginning of formal banking activities in the country. Following this, the British colonial era saw the formation of three presidency banks:

- ♦ Bank of Calcutta (1806)
- ♦ Bank of Bombay (1840)
- ♦ Bank of Madras (1849)

These banks later merged to form the **Imperial Bank of India** in 1921, which was later nationalized as **State Bank of India** in 1955.

Nationalization and Reforms

In 1949, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** was nationalized and became the central banking institution of India. Further nationalizations followed, with **14 major commercial banks** being nationalized in 1969, and **6 more in 1980**.

In 1993, the **New Bank of India** merged with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**. These nationalizations aimed at making banking services more accessible to the common man and addressing regional imbalances in credit distribution.

As the Indian economy opened up, the **1991 economic reforms** paved the way for the entry of **private-sector banks** and **foreign banks**, further modernizing the sector and enhancing competition.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- The **RBI**, set up in 1935 under the **RBI Act of 1934**, serves as the central bank of India.
- Its primary functions include overseeing monetary policy, managing foreign exchange, issuing currency (except one-rupee notes and coins), and ensuring financial stability.
- The RBI also plays a critical role in regulating and supervising other banks in India.
- The **first governor** of RBI was **Sir Osborne Smith**, and the **first Indian governor** was **C.D. Deshmukh**.
- The **emblem** of the RBI features a **tiger and a palm tree**, symbolizing strength and wealth.
- The RBI is governed by a **Central Board of Directors** comprising the **Governor, four Deputy Governors, and 15 Directors**. Its headquarters were initially in **Kolkata**, but in 1937, they were moved to **Mumbai**.

Functions of RBI

- **Issuing of Notes:** RBI is the sole authority for issuing currency notes, except for one-rupee coins and notes, which are issued by the Government of India.
- **Banker to the Government:** It serves as the government's banker, managing public debt, and advising the government on fiscal matters.
- **Lender of Last Resort:** In times of financial crisis, scheduled banks can approach the RBI for liquidity support, making it a critical safeguard against banking system failure.
- **Control of Credit:** The RBI regulates the supply of money and credit in the economy, influencing interest rates, inflation, and economic growth.
- **Custodian of Foreign Reserves:** RBI manages India's foreign exchange reserves, stabilizing the currency and promoting international trade.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure Development in India

India's infrastructure transformation is a cornerstone of its economic resurgence. By integrating physical and digital networks, India is transitioning toward a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive landscape, aiming for a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

PM Gati Shakti & Logistics Efficiency

Launched in 2021, the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) provides a "whole-of-government" approach to infrastructure.

- **Integrated Planning:** Onboards 44 Central Ministries and 36 States/UTs onto a unified digital platform.
- **National Logistics Policy (2022):** Aims to reduce logistics costs to below 10% of GDP.
- **Performance:** India's World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI) improved from 44th (2018) to 38th (2023).

Roads and Highways

India now possesses the world's largest road network, characterized by rapid expansion and high-speed corridors.

- **Expansion:** National Highway (NH) length grew from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1,46,204 km by 2025.
- **Construction Speed:** The pace of NH construction has more than doubled, from 12.1 km/day to 29 km/day.
- **Bharatmala Pariyojana:** Developing 26,000 km of economic corridors and 35 Multimodal Logistics Parks (MMLPs).

Civil Aviation & Regional Connectivity

India has emerged as the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, focusing on accessibility through the UDAN scheme.

- **Airport Growth:** The number of operational airports surged from 74 in 2014 to 160 in 2026.
- **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik):** Over 625 routes have been operationalized, connecting 90 previously underserved airports and heliports.

Maritime and Railways Modernization

- **Shipping:** Port capacity reached 1,630 MTPA in 2024. The average container turnaround time was slashed from 94 hours to 48 hours.
- **Railways:** Focused on 100% electrification and passenger safety. Over 31,000 modern LHB coaches were manufactured between 2014 and 2023, while the Northeast states were finally integrated into the national rail map.

Urban Transformation and Water Security

- **Metro Rail:** Operational network expanded from 248 km (5 cities) to 1,013 km (23 cities) by 2025.

- **Housing (PMAY-U):** Over 118 lakh houses approved to ensure "Housing for All."
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** A revolutionary shift in rural health, increasing tap water coverage from 17% in 2019 to nearly 80% by 2025.

Transport Sector in India

The transport sector includes all modes of transportation—road, rail, air, water, and pipelines—that facilitate the movement of goods and people. It is essential for economic growth, social integration, and regional development.

Current Status

- **Contribution to Economy:** The sector contributes approximately 6-7% to India's GDP.
- **Infrastructure:** India possesses the world's second-largest road network and the fourth-largest railway network.
- **Logistics:** Logistics costs currently stand at 13-14% of GDP, with a government target to reduce it to 8% to match global benchmarks.
- **Growth:** The aviation sector is the third-largest domestic market globally, while maritime trade handles over 90% of India's trade by volume.

KEY FACTS

- **Road Network:** India has the world's largest road network at over 6.62 million km (as of August 2025), carrying more than 70% of freight and 85% of passenger traffic.
- **National Highways (NH):** Span over 1,46,204 km, carrying 40% of total road traffic despite being only 2% of the network.
- **Railways:** 4th largest network; 68,043 km; transports 22,593 trains/day; 99% electrification of broad gauge.
- **Airways:** 160 operational airports (34 International Air Ports)
- **Waterways:** 111 National Waterways (NW) has been approved (32 operational)
- **Pipelines:** Over 20,000 km of crude oil and gas pipelines
- **Logistics Sector:** Contributes 14% to GDP; National Logistics Policy launched to reduce costs to 8-10%
- **Longest Bridge:** The Atal Setu (MTHL) is India's longest sea bridge (21.8 km).

Science & Technology

India's Scientific & Technological Journey

India's scientific and technological journey is a remarkable evolution from ancient foundational theories to modern global leadership in innovation. It is a story of a civilization that provided the world with the concept of "Zero" and today leads the world in low-cost space exploration and digital public infrastructure.

Ancient Roots

India's early contributions laid the groundwork for global scientific development:

- **Mathematics:** The groundbreaking concept of zero, the decimal system, and advancements in algebra and trigonometry originated here. Aryabhata (5th century CE) proposed a heliocentric model and accurately calculated pi.
- **Medicine (Ayurveda):** Texts like the *Charaka Samhita* and *Sushruta Samhita* documented holistic health and advanced surgery, including plastic surgery, centuries before the West.
- **Metallurgy & Engineering:** The rust-resistant Iron Pillar of Delhi and the advanced urban planning of the Indus Valley Civilization (drainage and water management) showcase early engineering prowess.

Medieval Era

Scientific thought continued to flourish through the middle ages:

- **Advanced Math:** Scholars like Bhaskara II made significant contributions to calculus, exploring differential calculus and infinite series long before Newton.
- **Architectural Engineering:** Structures like the Sun Temple of Konark and the Qutub Minar demonstrate sophisticated material science and structural engineering.
- **Chemistry & Textiles:** Nagarjuna's *Rasaratnakara* advanced chemical processes, while India became a global hub for fine muslin and silk production.

Post-Independence

After 1947, India prioritized "Scientific Temper." This led to the establishment of the IITs, ISRO, and DRDO, propelling the nation into the elite club of technological superpowers.

1. Space Exploration (ISRO)

India is now a dominant force in space:

- **Lunar & Martian Success:** Chandrayaan-1 confirmed lunar water, while Chandrayaan-3 (2023) made India the first nation to land near the Moon's South Pole. Mangalyaan (2013) reached Mars on its maiden attempt.
- **Future Frontiers:** The **Gaganyaan** mission aims to send Indian astronauts into space, and **Aditya-L1** is currently studying the Sun.
- **Self-Reliance:** Development of PSLV and GSLV rockets has made India a preferred hub for commercial satellite launches.

2. Defense and Strategic Technology

India has achieved "Atmanirbharta" (self-reliance) in critical defense sectors:

- **Missile Systems:** The Agni, Prithvi, and the BrahMos (supersonic cruise missile) series provide a robust deterrent.
- **Naval & Air Power:** The commissioning of **INS Vikrant** (indigenous aircraft carrier) and the development of the **Tejas** Light Combat Aircraft signify growing aerospace and maritime capabilities.

3. Biotechnology and Healthcare

Often called the "Pharmacy of the World," India's healthcare innovation is vital for global equity:

- **Vaccine Leadership:** India produced Covaxin and the world's first DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine (ZyCoV-D).
- **Genomics:** The **Genome India Project** recently completed sequencing 10,000 Indian genomes to revolutionize personalized medicine.

4. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

India has pioneered a "Digital Stack" that is being emulated globally:

- **UPI & Aadhaar:** The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionized cashless transactions, while Aadhaar provides the world's largest biometric identity system.
- **IT Services:** India remains a global hub for software development, transitioning from back-office support to cutting-edge R&D in AI and Blockchain.

5. Energy and Emerging Tech

- **Nuclear Energy:** India's three-stage nuclear power program, including Fast Breeder Reactors at Kalpakkam, aims for energy independence.
- **Renewables:** India is a global leader in solar and wind energy capacity.
- **Future Tech:** Missions in **Quantum Computing** and **Artificial Intelligence** are positioning India to lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Health

Health Infrastructure in India

Public Healthcare Structure

Primary Level

- **Sub-Centers (SC) & Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM):** Over 1.81 lakh centers serve as the first point of contact, focusing on maternal/child health and screening for NCDs (hypertension/diabetes).
- **Primary Health Centers (PHC):** Referral units for every six sub-centers, managed by medical officers and paramedics.

Secondary Level

- **Community Health Centers (CHC):** Provide specialized rural care in pediatrics, surgery, and gynecology.
- **District Hospitals:** The primary healthcare hubs for each district, offering comprehensive secondary care and diagnostic services.

Tertiary Level

- **Specialized Institutes:** Includes 22 approved AIIMS (18 functional) and medical colleges providing advanced surgeries, research, and multi-specialty care.

Medical Education and Workforce

- **Capacity Surge:** Medical colleges grew by 111% since 2014, reaching **818 institutions** in 2025-26.
- **Student Intake:** MBBS seats have reached **1,28,875**, while Postgraduate (MD/MS/DNB) seats stand at **82,059**.
- **NMC Regulatory Reforms (2026)**
 - ♦ **Removal of Seat Cap:** The 150-seat ceiling for existing colleges seeking expansion has been abolished.
 - ♦ **Scrapping Population Ratio:** The requirement of 100 MBBS seats per 10 lakh population was removed to allow infrastructure-ready states to expand freely.
- **Nursing & Paramedics**
 - ♦ India has **42.94 lakh registered nursing personnel** as of March 2025.
 - ♦ 157 new nursing colleges are being established in co-location with medical colleges.
- **Doctor-to-Population Ratio**
 - ♦ **Overall:** 1:811 (including AYUSH practitioners), surpassing the WHO standard of 1:1000.
 - ♦ **Allopathic Only:** Approximately 1:1200 (based on 13.86 lakh registered doctors).

Healthcare Financing and Expenditure

- **Growth in Spending:** Government Health Expenditure (GHE) tripled from Rs. 1.30 lakh crore (2013-14) to **Rs. 3.85 lakh crore** (2022-23).

- **GDP Share:** GHE as a percentage of GDP increased from 1.15% to **1.43%**.
- **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE):** A significant decline from 64.2% to **43.4%** of Total Health Expenditure, reducing the financial burden on citizens.
- **Fiscal Commitment (Budget 2026-27):** Allocation of Rs. 1,06,530 crore to the Health Ministry, a 194% increase over 12 years.

Physical Infrastructure and Capacity

- **Bed Density:** Currently 1.3 to 1.4 beds per 1,000 population. The National Health Policy targets 2.0 per 1,000.
- **PM-ABHIM (Infrastructure Mission):** A Rs. 64,180 crore investment targeting 730 District Integrated Public Health Labs and 621 Critical Care Blocks.
- **Private Sector Role:** Accounts for nearly **70% of health-care service delivery** in India.
- **Disaster Management:** Deployment of **BHISHM Cubes** (modular portable hospitals) for rapid emergency response.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in Health

- **ABDM (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission):** Over **83.94 crore ABHA health IDs** created, with 80 crore digital records linked for paperless care.
- **e-Sanjeevani:** The world's largest telemedicine platform, facilitating over **43 crore consultations**, bridging the urban-rural specialist gap.
- **AI Integration:** Implementation of AI tools for tuberculosis screening ("Cough against TB") and diabetic retinopathy (MadhuNetrAI).
- **CoWIN Platform:** A globally recognized digital backbone used for large-scale vaccination management.

Key Government Initiatives

- **Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY):** Provides Rs. 5 lakh annual health cover to 12 crore families; over 42 crore cards issued and 10.98 crore hospital admissions authorized.
- **Ayushman Vay Vandana:** Launched in 2024 to provide **free health cover to all senior citizens aged 70+**, regardless of income.
- **Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana:** A network of outlets offering generic medicines at 50%–90% lower costs than branded alternatives.
- **Cancer Care:** 100% customs duty exemption on 17 life-saving cancer drugs (Budget 2026-27).

Health Outcomes and Elimination Targets

- **Mortality Rates:** Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) fell to **88 per lakh**; Under-5 Mortality Ratio (U5MR) declined to **29 per 1000**.

Defence

Defense Scenario in India

Defense security refers to the protection of a nation's sovereignty from foreign aggression (**External**) and the maintenance of law and order against domestic threats such as terrorism, Naxalism, and ethnic insurgencies (**Internal**). India's defense scenario is a complex matrix of safeguarding territorial integrity against foreign adversaries while maintaining social cohesion against domestic insurgencies.

Current Status

- India currently faces a “two-front” external challenge along the Line of Actual Control (China) and the Line of Control (Pakistan).
- Internally, while Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) has shrunk geographically, challenges remain in Jammu & Kashmir regarding hybrid terrorism and in the Northeast regarding ethnic volatility (e.g., Manipur). Additionally, cyber-warfare and maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region have emerged as critical modern frontiers.

KEY FACTS

- **Military Rank:** India possesses the world's 4th most powerful military according to the Global Firepower Index.
- **Indigenous Might:** **INS Vikrant** is India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, commissioned in 2022.
- **Missile Technology:** The **Agni-V** is an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.
- **Nuclear Doctrine:** India maintains a “No First Use” nuclear policy.

Government Initiatives

- **Agnipath Scheme:** A new recruitment model for youth to serve in the armed forces as “Agniveers.”
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat:** Prioritizing “Make in India” through Positive Indigenisation Lists that ban the import of specific defense items to boost local production.
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):** Created to ensure “jointness” and integration among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **Vibrant Villages Programme:** Focused on developing border villages to improve security and infrastructure.

Constitutional/Legal/Global Provisions

- **Article 355:** The Constitution mandates the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance.
- **AFSPA (1958):** Grants special powers to the military in “disturbed areas.”

- **UAPA (1967):** The primary legal framework for dealing with terrorist activities.
- **UN Charter Article 51:** Recognizes the inherent right of a nation to individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs.

Related Institutions/Organisations

- **DRDO:** The premier agency for military research and development.
- **RAW & IB:** Agencies responsible for external and internal intelligence, respectively.
- **NSG (Black Cats):** The elite force for counter-terrorism and kidnapping.
- **TRI-SERVICES:** Comprising the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Regulatory Body/Ministry

- **External Defense:** Governed by the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
- **Internal Security:** Governed by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

Defence Forces of India

The primary responsibility for national defense rests with the Cabinet, specifically the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for external threats and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for internal security. At the apex of this structure is the **President of India**, who serves as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

The Apex Leadership: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

To ensure better “jointness” and integration between the three services, the Government created the post of **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** in 2019.

- **Role:** The CDS acts as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Principal Military Advisor to the Minister of Defence.
- **Department of Military Affairs (DMA):** The CDS heads the newly created DMA to streamline procurement and operations.

The Indian Army (IA)

The Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces.

- **Head:** The **Chief of Army Staff (COAS)**, holding the rank of General.

International Relations

India-USA

The India-USA relationship has matured into a **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**, described by both nations as the most consequential of the 21st century. As of mid-2026, the relationship is defined by deep institutionalization in defence and a “transactional but transformational” economic agenda.

India and the United States share a “**Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**” rooted in shared democratic values and converging interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

Diplomatic Relations

- Elevated to a “Strategic Partnership” in 2004.
- Frequent high-level exchanges, including PM Modi’s 2023 State Visit and President Biden’s G20 visit.

Diaspora

- Approximately **4.5 million** Indian-Americans live in the US.
- It is the most affluent and educated ethnic group, featuring leaders like VP Kamala Harris and CEOs of Google (Sundar Pichai) and Microsoft (Satya Nadella).

Groupings

- **QUAD**: Cooperation between India, USA, Japan, and Australia for a free Indo-Pacific.
- **I2U2**: Joint initiative with Israel and UAE.
- **IPEF**: Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for prosperity.

Treaties and Agreements

- **Civil Nuclear Deal (2008)**: Ended India’s nuclear isolation.
- **Foundational Pacts**: India has signed all four: GSOMIA (Security), LEMOA (Logistics), COMCASA (Communications), and BECA (Geospatial).

Cooperation

- **Space**: ISRO and NASA are collaborating on the **NI-SAR** satellite.
- **Health**: Partnership in vaccine development (e.g., Corbevax) and the “Global Health Security Agenda.”

Technology & Innovation

- **iCET**: The Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology focuses on AI, semiconductors, and space.
- **Jet Engines**: GE F414 engine co-production deal signed for India’s Tejas Mk2.

Military

- India is designated as a “**Major Defense Partner**” of the USA (2016).
- Major deals include MQ-9B Predator drones and P-8I Neptune aircraft.

Military Exercises

- **Yudh Abhyas**: Joint Army exercise.
- **Vajra Prahar**: Special Forces exercise.
- **Malabar**: Multilateral naval exercise including Japan and Australia.
- **Cope India**: Air Force exercise.

Trade & Commerce

- The USA is India’s 2nd **largest trading partner after China**.
- Bilateral trade reached approximately **\$149.4 billion in 2025**. India maintains a trade surplus with the US.

Import

- India imports Crude Oil, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Gold, Coal, and Large Commercial Aircraft (Boeing) from the US.

Export

- India’s top exports include Pharmaceutical products, Polished Diamonds, IT/Software services, Textiles, and Marine products.

India-China

India-China relations are characterized by a complex mix of economic cooperation and systemic strategic competition, often described as a “**concord and conflict**” relationship.

Diplomatic Relations

- India was the first non-communist country in Asia to recognize the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in 1950.
- Relations are currently at an all-time low following the 2020 **Galwan Valley clash** and the ongoing standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Groupings

- **BRICS**: (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) focusing on emerging economies.
- **SCO**: (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) for regional security.
- **RIC**: A strategic dialogue platform between Russia, India, and China.

Social Development

Human Development

Human development is the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities while improving their well-being. According to the UNDP, it focuses on three essential dimensions: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living.

Current Status

In the 2025 Human Development Report (UNDP), India ranked **130th out of 193 countries** with an HDI value of **0.685**, placing it in the "Medium Human Development" category.

The improvement has been driven by gains in life expectancy (from 58.6 years in 1990 to around 72 years in 2023), education (schooling years increasing) and income (GNI per capita rising).

- **Life expectancy:** Increased from 58.6 years (1990) to 72 years (2023).
- **Education:** Mean years of schooling rose from 3.0 years to 6.2 years.
- **Income:** GNI per capita (PPP) increased from US\$2,000 in 1990 to about US\$9,000 in 2023.

KEY FACTS

- The HDI was created by Pakistani economist **Mahbub ul Haq** and Indian Nobel laureate **Amartya Sen** in 1990.
- The **SDG India Index**, released by NITI Aayog, tracks development at the state level (Kerala consistently ranks top).

Government Initiatives

- **Health:** *Ayushman Bharat* (PM-JAY) for universal health coverage; *POSHAN Abhiyaan* for nutrition.
- **Education:** *Samagra Shiksha* and the *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020*.
- **Livelihood:** *MGNREGA* for rural employment; *Skill India Mission*.
- **Living Standards:** *PM Awas Yojana* (Housing) and *Jal Jeevan Mission* (Piped water).

Constitutional, Legal, and Global Provisions

- **Constitutional:** Article 21 (Right to Life), Article 21A (Right to Education), and Directive Principles (Articles 39, 41, 45, and 47) regarding health and welfare.
- **Legal:** *Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009*; *National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013*.

- **Global/UN:** UN Charter (Human Rights); **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030**, specifically Goal 3 (Health), Goal 4 (Education), and Goal 8 (Decent Work).

Related Institutions/Organisations

- **International:** UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), WHO, UNESCO, and UNICEF.
- **National:** **NITI Aayog** (monitors SDGs), National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), and various NGOs like Pratham (education).

Regulatory Body/Ministry

- The primary oversight lies with the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education)**, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, and the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**. **NITI Aayog** serves as the nodal agency for coordinating human development indicators.

Poverty in India

Poverty is a condition where individuals or households lack the financial resources to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare. It is measured through **Absolute Poverty** (minimum income required for physical survival) and **Multidimensional Poverty** (deprivations in health, education, and living standards).

KEY FACTS

- **Kerala's Milestone:** On November 1, 2025, Kerala became the first Indian state to be declared free from extreme poverty.
- **Historical Committees:** Key poverty estimation panels include the Alagh (1979), Lakdawala (1993), **Tendulkar (2009)**, and Rangarajan (2012) Committees.
- **Global Achievement:** According to the UN, India lifted 415 million people out of multidimensional poverty between 2005-06 and 2019-21.

Current Status

- **Revised Poverty Line:** In June 2025, the World Bank raised the International Poverty Line from USD 2.15 to **USD 3.00 a day** (2021 PPP).
- **Poverty Rates:** Under this metric, India's extreme poverty rate was 5.3% in 2022-23, estimated to drop to **2.3% in 2023-24**.
- **Multidimensional Decline:** According to NITI Aayog (2024), multidimensional poverty fell to **11.28%** from 25% in 2015-16, lifting 24.82 crore people out of poverty in nine years.

Art & Culture

Classical Dances of India

India's classical dances are an expression of its rich cultural and spiritual traditions, rooted in the ancient treatise *Natya Shastra* by Bharata Muni. There are **eight recognized classical dance forms** of India, each representing a distinct regional heritage.



- Bharatanatyam (Tamil Nadu):** One of the oldest classical dances, Bharatanatyam is known for geometric postures, precise footwork, and expressive *mudras*. Traditionally performed in temples, it symbolizes devotion (*bhakti*).
 - ♦ **Notable Exponents:** Rukmini Devi Arundale, Padma Subrahmanyam, Alarmel Valli, Mallika Sarabhai.
- Kathak (North India):** Originating from ancient storytellers or *Kathakars*, it evolved under Mughal influence into a blend of Hindu and Persian styles. It features intricate footwork, graceful spins (*chakkars*), and rhythmic patterns.
 - ♦ **Notable Exponents:** Birju Maharaj, Sitara Devi, Shovana Narayan, Pandit Shambhu Maharaj.
- Kathakali (Kerala):** A vibrant dance-drama combining elaborate makeup, colorful costumes, and expressive gestures to depict tales from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*.
 - ♦ **Notable Exponents:** Kalamandalam Gopi, Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair, Margi Vijayakumar.
- Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh):** Combining fast-paced rhythm with expressive storytelling, Kuchipudi often includes dialogue and singing.
 - ♦ **Notable Exponents:** Vempati Chinna Satyam, Raja and Radha Reddy, Yamini Krishnamurthy.
- Odissi (Odisha):** Known for its graceful, lyrical movements and sculptural poses inspired by temple carvings.

- ♦ **Notable Exponents:** Kelucharan Mohapatra, Sanjukta Panigrahi, Sonal Mansingh, Sujata Mohapatra.
- Manipuri (Manipur):** A delicate and devotional dance form depicting *Ras Leela* of Lord Krishna and Radha with gentle, flowing movements.
 - ♦ **Notable Exponents:** Guru Bipin Singh, Jhaveri Sisters, N. Tombi Devi.
 - Mohiniyattam (Kerala):** Performed by women, this dance captures feminine grace and emotive storytelling, symbolizing *Mohini*, the enchantress form of Lord Vishnu.
 - ♦ **Notable Exponents:** Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma, Bharati Shivaji, Sunanda Nair.
 - Sattriya (Assam):** Conceived by saint Srimanta Sankardeva in the 15th century, this dance form emerged from Vaishnavite monasteries (*sattras*) and emphasizes devotion.
 - ♦ **Notable Exponents:** Jatin Goswami, Indira P. P. Bora, Anita Sharma.

Popular Folk Dances of India

Folk dance celebrates the cultural roots of a particular group of people. Folk dance is typically performed as a form of ritualistic entertainment at social gatherings. Some kinds of folk dance tell a culture's foundational stories, while others may simply emphasize cultural pride.

Andhra Pradesh	Kuchipudi, Ghantamardala, Ottam Thedal, Mohiniattam, Kolattam, Veethi Natakam, Burrakatha
Assam	Bihu, Bichhua, Natpuja, Maharas, Sattriya, Kaligopal, Bagurumba, Naga dance, Khel gopal, Tabal chongli, Canoe, Jhumura Habjanai, Ali Ali Ligang, Ojapali, Ankiya Nat, Kirtania Natak
Arunachal Pradesh	Bardo chham
Bihar	Bidesia, Senkela Chhau, Ramkhelia Jata-jatin, Bakho-Bakhain, Panwariya, Samachakwa
Chhatis-garh	Pantheni, Raut Nacha
Gujarat	Garba, Dandiya Ras, Tippani Juriun, Bhaval, Padhar
Haryana	Jhumar, Phag, Daph, Dhamaal, Loor, Gugga, Khor, Gagor
Himachal Pradesh	Kinnauri Nati, Namgen, Jhora, Jhali, Chhari, Dhamaal Chhapeli, Mahasu, Nati, Dangi
Jammu & Kashmir	Rauf, Hikar, Mandjas, Kud Dandi Nach, Damali

Indices & Reports

India on Indices & Reports

Human Development Index (HDI) 2025

- **Released By:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Top Performer:** Iceland
- **Worst Performer:** South Sudan
- **India's Rank:** 130th (India improved from 133 to 130)
- **India's Performance:** India is placed in the "Medium Human Development" category.

Global Peace Index 2025

- **Released By:** Institute for Economics & Peace
- **Top Performer:** Iceland
- **Worst Performer:** Russia (for first time)
- **India's Rank:** 115th
- **India's Performance:** India moved up slightly.

Global Hunger Index 2025

- **Released By:** Concern Worldwide
- **Top Performer:** Armenia, Belarus, etc.
- **Worst Performer:** Somalia
- **India's Rank:** 102nd
- **India's Performance:** India is categorized with a "serious" level of hunger.
- **India's Response:** India has rejected the 2025 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report. The government criticized the methodology, calling it "erroneous" and "unrepresentative," citing a reliance on small, opinion-based samples for undernourishment data rather than actual ground-level food consumption.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2025

- **Released By:** United Nations Development Programme & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- **Global Poverty Statistics:** Of 6.3 billion people across 109 countries, 1.1 billion (18.3%) live in acute multidimensional poverty, mostly young, rural, and in low human development countries.
- **Multi-dimensional Poverty in India:** Poverty fell from 55.1% (2005–2006) to 16.4% (2019–2021). Large areas of India face a severe mix of poverty, high heat, flooding, and air pollution.

National Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023

- **Released By:** NITI Aayog
- **Top Performer:** Kerala (0.55% -NFHS-5 -lowest share of poverty among States)

- **Worst Performer:** Bihar (33.76 - -NFHS-5 - highest share of poverty among states)
- **National Findings:** India has experienced a significant reduction in multidimensional poverty from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23, marking a decrease of **17.89% points**. Approximately **24.82 crore people have escaped multidimensional poverty** in the last nine years (2013-14 to 2022-23).
- **State-wise Decline:** Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh have recorded the **sharpest decline** in the number of people classified as poor based on the MPI. Uttar Pradesh saw the largest decline with **5.94 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty**, followed by Bihar at 3.77 crore, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In % decline, Bihar topped (18.13) followed by Madhya Pradesh (15.94) and Uttar Pradesh (14.75).
- **Key Facts:** Uses three equally weighted dimensions-Health, Education, and Standard of Living. It captures overlapping deprivations that people face beyond just income.

World Happiness Report 2026

- **Released By:** Wellbeing Research Centre (University of Oxford) with Gallup & UNSDSN
- **Happiest Country:** Finland
- **Least Happy Country:** Afghanistan
- **India's Rank:** 116th out of 147 countries
- **India's Performance:** India showed marginal improvement from the previous rank of 118.

World Press Freedom Index 2026

- **Released By:** Reporters Without Borders
- **Key Observation:** Global press freedom has reached its lowest average score since 2001. Over half of the 180 surveyed countries are now classified as "difficult" or "very serious." Currently, less than 1% of the global population lives in a country with "good" press freedom.
- **Top Performer:** Norway
- **Worst Performer:** Eritrea (180th)
- **Major Shifts:** Syria (141st) rose 36 places post-Assad, while Niger saw the steepest decline, dropping 37 places.
- **India's Rank/Performance:** India ranks 157th out of 180 countries and placed in the "very serious" category.
- **Pakistan** ranks 153rd.
- **China (178th):** Remains the world's largest jailer of journalists with 121 imprisoned.

Global Gender Gap Report 2025

- **Released By:** World Economic Forum (WEF)
- **Top Performer:** Iceland

Tourism

Tourism in India

Tourism in India refers to the travel of domestic and international visitors within the geographical boundaries of India for leisure, business, religious (pilgrimage), medical, or cultural purposes. It encompasses the infrastructure, services, and experiences provided to travelers.

Current Status

- **Economic Contribution:** Tourism is a vital sector, contributing approximately **5.8% to India's GDP** and supporting nearly 32 million jobs.
- **Growth Trends:** India is witnessing a massive surge in “**Vishwaas**” (**Spiritual Tourism**) and **Medical Tourism**, with the latter valued at over \$5 billion.

Focus of Union Budget 2026–27 on Tourism

- Union Budget 2026–27 proposes preserving temples and monasteries, creating pilgrimage centres, and improving connectivity and amenities in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura.
- India to host the first Global Big Cat Summit, bringing together leaders and ministers from 95 countries, reinforcing India's leadership in eco-tourism diplomacy.
- Five major tourism destinations to be developed across Purvodaya States with 4,000 e-buses for connectivity.
- Five regional medical hubs to be established, to promote India as a hub for medical tourism services.
- 15 archaeological sites including Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Sarnath, Hastinapur, and Leh Palace to be developed into vibrant, experiential cultural destinations.

KEY FACTS

- **UNESCO Sites:** India currently hosts **44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites** (the latest additions being Maratha Military Landscapes of India).
- **Ranking:** India ranked **39th** in the World Economic Forum's **Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024**.
- **Slogan:** The official marketing campaign is “**Incredible India**”, launched in 2002.
- **World Tourism Day:** Celebrated annually on **September 27** since 1980.

Government Initiatives

- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0:** Revamped to develop destination-centric sustainable tourism (e.g., Hampi, Bodh Gaya).
- **PRASHAD Scheme:** Focuses on infrastructure at 54 pilgrimage sites like Somnath and Hazratbal.
- **SASCI (2025):** Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment sanctioned 40 iconic projects worth Rs. 3,295.76 crore.
- **Cruise Bharat Mission:** A multi-phase mission (2024–2029) to make India a global cruise hub.
- **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP):** Promoting tourism in 46 border blocks to provide local livelihoods.
- **Dekho Apna Desh:** A people-centric initiative to promote domestic travel through polls and webinars.
- **e-Visa Facility:** Extended to over 166 countries to simplify entry for international tourists.
- **Paryatan Mitra / Paryatan Didi:** Capacity-building initiative to empower local communities and women.
- **Utsav Portal:** A digital repository for festivals and live *darshans* across India.
- **Wedding Tourism:** Campaigns like “**India says I do**” and “**Wed in India**” to capture the global wedding market.

Constitutional/Legal/Global Provisions

- **Constitutional:** Tourism is not explicitly mentioned in the Seventh Schedule but is managed via **Entry 33 of the State List** and various entries in the **Union and Concurrent Lists** (like Pilgrimages, Monuments, and Railways).
- **Global:** India is a signatory to the **UN Tourism (formerly UNWTO)** statutes and adopted the **Goa Roadmap for Tourism** during its G20 Presidency (2023) to align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Related Institutions/Organizations

- **ITDC:** India Tourism Development Corporation, which manages hospitality and trade services.
- **ASI:** Archaeological Survey of India, responsible for the conservation of national monuments.
- **IATO:** Indian Association of Tour Operators (national body for the tourism industry).

Regulatory Body/Ministry

- **The Ministry of Tourism:** The nodal agency for formulating national policies and coordinating with Central and State agencies to promote India as a global destination.

Demography

Census of India

The Census is the total process of collecting, compiling, analyzing, and disseminating demographic, economic, and social data pertaining to all persons in a country at a specific time. In India, it is a decennial exercise conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**.

Current Status

- **Census 2011:** The 15th national census recorded a population of **1.21 billion**, with a decadal growth rate of **17.7%**.
- **Census 2027:** The 16th Census, postponed from 2021 due to COVID-19, is scheduled for 2027. It will be India's first **fully digital census**, utilizing mobile apps and a self-enumeration portal.
- **Revolutionary Change:** For the first time since independence (1947), the upcoming census will include **caste enumeration** for all individuals, moving beyond just SC/ST categories.

KEY FACTS

- **History:** The first complete census was conducted in 1830 by **Henry Walter** in Dacca. The first synchronous census started in 1881.
- **Mascots of 2027 Census:** **Pragati** (female enumerator) and **Vikas** (male enumerator).

Government Initiatives

- **Digital Transformation:** Use of ICT tools and “in-built validation” to ensure data accuracy.
- **Self-Enumeration:** A public-facing online platform to reduce the burden on physical enumerators.
- **Data Convergence:** Linking census data with other databases like the e-Shram portal for better welfare delivery.

Constitutional/Legal Provisions

- **Union List:** The Census is a Union subject under **Entry 69** of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- **Census Act, 1948:** Provides the legal framework and guarantees that individual data remains confidential.
- **Census Rules, 1990:** Governs the procedural aspects of the enumeration process.

Related Institutions/Organisations

- **ORGI:** Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.
- **NSSO/NSO:** Organizations that utilize census data for specialized socio-economic surveys.

Regulatory Body/Ministry

- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):** The central authority responsible for planning and executing the Census of India.

Census 2011: Key Indicators

Most Populous State: Uttar Pradesh remained the most populous state, followed by Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal.

Sex Ratio: The national sex ratio improved slightly to **943 females per 1000 males** in 2011, compared to 933 in 2001.

Literacy Rate: **74.04%** in 2011, up from 64.83% in 2001.

- **Male Literacy Rate:** The male literacy rate was **82.14%**.
- **Female Literacy Rate:** The female literacy rate reached **65.46%**.
- **State-wise Literacy:** Kerala maintained its position as the most literate state with a literacy rate of 94%, followed by Lakshadweep (91.85%) and Mizoram (91.33%). Bihar recorded the lowest literacy rate at 61.8%.

Density of Population: The average population density of India in 2011 was **382 persons per square kilometer**.

- **State-wise Density:** Bihar was the most densely populated state with 1,106 persons per sq km, followed by West Bengal (1,028) and Kerala (860). Arunachal Pradesh remained the least densely populated state with only 17 persons per sq km.

Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Population: The SC population constituted **16.6%** of the total population. The ST population accounted for **8.6%** of the total population.

FACTS ABOUT DISTRICTS (CENSUS 2011)

- **Most Populated District:** Thane district of Maharashtra is the most populated district of India.
- **Least Populated District:** Dibang Valley district of Arunachal Pradesh is the least populated.
- **Highest Population Growth Rate:** Kurung Kumey district of Arunachal Pradesh registered highest population growth rate of 111.01 per cent.
- **Negative Population Growth Rate:** Longleng district of Nagaland registered negative population growth rate of (-) 58.39.
- **Highest Sex Ratio:** Mahe district of Puducherry has highest sex ratio of 1176 females per 1000 males.
- **Lowest Sex Ratio:** Daman district has lowest sex ratio of 533 females per 1000 males.

Youth Development & Sports

Sports in India

Sports in India weaves together ancient traditions, colonial legacies, and a modern, high-performance competitive spirit. Historically, India is the birthplace of several global games, including Chess (Chaturanga), Ludo, and martial arts like Kalaripayattu, reflecting a deep-seated physical culture that dates back to the Vedic era.

Current Status

India is currently witnessing a “Sports Renaissance.” Transitioning from a single-sport nation (cricket) to a multi-sport powerhouse, India has shown remarkable growth in Athletics, Badminton, Archery, and Shooting.

- **Economic Impact:** The Indian sports industry is valued at over **\$1.5 billion**, driven by professional leagues like the IPL, ISL, and PKL.
- **Infrastructure:** Through the “Viksit Bharat” vision, there is a massive push to build international-standard facilities in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- **Olympic Ambition:** India has officially expressed interest in hosting the **2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games**, signaling its global readiness.
- **Fiscal Support:** In the 2026-27 Union Budget, the Ministry received its highest-ever allocation of **Rs. 4,479.88 crore**.
- **Sports Manufacturing:** **Rs. 500 crore** earmarked to boost the domestic sports goods industry.

Major Achievements of India in Sports

- **Hockey:** India remains the most successful nation in Olympic field hockey history with **8 Gold Medals**.
- **Cricket:**
 - ♦ Two-time ODI World Cup Winners (1983, 2011).
 - ♦ Three-time T20 World Cup Winners (**2007, 2024, 2026**).
- **Athletics:** **Neeraj Chopra** became the first Indian track and field athlete to win Olympic Gold (Tokyo 2020) and a World Championship Gold (2023).
- **Badminton:** P.V. Sindhu is the first Indian to win two individual Olympic medals; India won the historic **Thomas Cup** in 2022.
- **Chess:** India is a global leader, recently winning **Double Gold** (Men and Women) at the 45th Chess Olympiad.

KEY FACTS

- **First Individual Olympic Gold:** Abhinav Bindra (Shooting, 2008 Beijing).
- **First Indian Woman to win an Olympic Medal:** Karnam Malleswari (Weightlifting, 2000 Sydney).
- **First Indian Woman to win Gold at Asian Games:** Kamaljeet Sandhu (400m, 1970).
- **2026 Milestone:** India defeated New Zealand to win the **2026 ICC Men’s T20 World Cup** held in India and Sri Lanka.
- **National Sports Day:** Celebrated on **August 29** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyhan Chand.

Government Initiatives/Key Policies

- **Khelo India Programme:** Launched to revive the sports culture at the grassroots level. It identifies talent through a wide range of sports across Youth, University, Winter, Para, and Beach formats.
- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):** Provides specialized training, foreign exposure, and monthly stipends to elite athletes.
- **Fit India Movement:** A nation-wide campaign to encourage citizens to include physical activity in their daily lives.
- **National Sports Policy 2026:** Focuses on digitizing sports talent scouting and promoting “Sports Goods Manufacturing” under the ‘Make in India’ initiative.
- **Mission Olympic Cell (MOC):** A dedicated body to evaluate and support athletes’ requirements for the 2028 and 2032 Olympics.
- **Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) Programme:** Targets children aged 9–18 to discover sporting talent from every corner of the country.
- **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue:** A new platform to channel youth ideas into governance.

Constitutional/Legal Provisions

- **Seventh Schedule:** “Sports” is a **State Subject** (Entry 33, List II). There is an ongoing debate to move it to the **Concurrent List** for better Union-State coordination.
- **National Sports Development Code of India (2011):** Provides guidelines for the functioning of National Sports Federations (NSFs) to ensure transparency.

Related Institutions/Organisations

- **Sports Authority of India (SAI):** The apex national sports body established in 1984.
- **Indian Olympic Association (IOA):** Responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the Olympic, Asian, and Commonwealth Games.

Awards & Accolades

Orders, Decorations, and Medals of India

The Indian honours system is a comprehensive framework of awards presented by the Republic of India to individuals for exceptional service, bravery, and achievements across various fields of human endeavour.

Highest Civilian Awards

These awards recognize exceptional service of the highest order to the nation.

- **Bharat Ratna:** The highest civilian award of India, instituted in 1954. It is awarded for exceptional service in any field without distinction of race, gender, or religion.
- **Padma Vibhushan:** The second-highest civilian award, given for “exceptional and distinguished service.”
- **Padma Bhushan:** The third-highest civilian award, given for “distinguished service of a high order.”
- **Padma Shri:** The fourth-highest civilian award, given for “distinguished service” in various fields like art, education, industry, and social work.

Key Regulations for Civilian Awards: Awardees cannot use these honours as titles, prefixes, or suffixes to their names (Article 18).

Military Awards (Gallantry)

These are awarded to personnel of the Armed Forces for acts of bravery and self-sacrifice.

- **Wartime Gallantry Awards**
 - ♦ **Param Vir Chakra:** India’s highest military decoration for bravery in the presence of the enemy.
 - ♦ **Maha Vir Chakra:** The second-highest wartime decoration.
 - ♦ **Vir Chakra:** The third-highest wartime decoration.
- **Peacetime Gallantry Awards**
 - ♦ **Ashoka Chakra:** The highest peacetime military decoration for bravery away from the battlefield.
 - ♦ **Kirti Chakra:** The second-highest peacetime decoration.
 - ♦ **Shaurya Chakra:** The third-highest peacetime decoration.

Military Service & Distinguished Awards

- **Wartime/Peacetime Service Medals:** Sena Medal (Army), Nau Sena Medal (Navy), and Vayu Sena Medal (Air Force).

- **Distinguished Service:** Includes the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal**, **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal**, and **Vishisht Seva Medal** for exceptionally high orders of performance.

Police and Civil Force Awards

Recognizing the bravery and dedication of internal security and civil forces.

- **President’s Medal for Gallantry:** The highest honour for police personnel.
- **Medal for Meritorious Service:** Awarded for prolonged and dedicated service.
- **Specialized Services:** Similar awards exist for **Fire Services**, **Correctional Services**, **Home Guards**, and the **Coast Guard**.

Literature

- **Jnanpith Award:** The highest literary honour in India.
- **Sahitya Akademi Award:** For excellence in regional and national literature.

Science

- **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar:** The premier award for Science and Technology.
- **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize:** For outstanding contributions to science.
- **National Geoscience Awards:** The National Mineral Awards Scheme was instituted in the year 1966 by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India. The scope of the awards has been expanded and the name changed to National Geoscience Awards (NGA) from 2009. The objective of the scheme is to honour individuals and teams for extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in the field of mineral discovery & exploration, fundamental / applied geosciences, mining and allied areas.
- **Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Puraskar:** The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) gives this award for the highest national recognition in the field of agriculture, agricultural education, extension, and allied sciences.

Medicine

- **Dr. B. C. Roy Award:** The highest honour in the field of medicine.
- **National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards:** They are among India’s highest honors for Ayurveda, conferred by the Ministry of Ayush to recognize outstanding excellence in education, research, and clinical practice.

National Unity/ Public Administration

- **Sardar Patel National Unity Award:** The Award rec-