

India

Capital: New Delhi

Population: 7,000,000

Largest cities: Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad

The world's 7th largest and the 2nd most populated country, India is a vast colourful land, full of variety in religion, language and culture. 3 of the world's major faiths originated here. More than 200 languages are spoken, although 40% of the population speaks Hindi. Despite much poverty, India is 1 of the world's top industrialized nations. Both agriculture and industry have expanded during the past 20 years and have attracted investments from international companies. India is also the world's largest democracy. Some 600 million people are eligible to vote.

Landscape

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Agriculture

- Green Revolution: production of *rice* and *wheat* has risen for more than 200% since 1947 ⇔ high-yielding varieties have been planted
- many are *vegetarians*
- *cows* are considered to be sacred => they do not eat beef (Muslims do not eat pork)
- *spices* are exported to all over the world
- the biggest producer of: *mangoes, jute, sesame seeds, tea, bananas, sugar*

Industry

- production of *cars, chemicals, food, drink, computers*
- *jet airplanes* and *rockets* nowadays
- *textile* and *leather goods* are major exports
- handicrafts: *brass work, mirror work, tie-dye*

Bollywood

- more films are produced than in any other country in the world
- *Mumbai:* >800 full-length films are shot annually
- themes packed with songs, dancing, romance, action

Busy cities

- cities are bustling, rush
- modern, high-rise buildings stand next to ancient temples, mosques and monuments
- *overcrowding* = serious problem ⇔ urbanization (migration) => slums (shantytowns)

Taj Mahal

- 17th century, Islamic architecture
- white marble as a tomb for the beloved wife of Shah Jahan
- = tourist attraction
- tourism belongs to rapidly growing industries bringing millions of tourists to India each year