

National Security College

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**Republic of India**

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## **Schedule**

| **Day** | **Time** | **Event** | **Place** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Friday 10.5.19 - Optional** | 7:25 | Landing |  |
|  | 12:00-12:55 | Flight to Jaipur |  |
|  | 12:55-13:30 | Check In | Samode Haveli |
|  | 13:30-18:40 | City Tour |  |
|  | 20:00-20:30 | Dinner |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Saturday, 11.5.19, Optional** | 7:25 | Breakfast |  |
|  | 8:30-13:00 | Amber Fort |  |
|  | 13:00-17:00 | Jaipur Bazar |  |
|  | 3:30 | Flight to Delhi |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday, 12.5.19** | 7:25 | Landing |  |
|  | 8:30-9:00 | Travel to Hotel |  |
|  | 9:00-9:30 | Breakfast | Taj Palace |
|  | 9:30-20:00 | Travel to and Tour of Taj Mahal |  |
|  | 20:00-20:30 | Dinner | Taj Palace |
|  | | | |
| **Monday, 13.5.19** | 7:30-8:30 | Breakfast | Taj Palace |
|  | 8:30-9:00 | Briefing |  |
|  | 9:30-9:45 | A meeting with the deputy head of Intelligence and the Foreign Service | South Block |
|  | 9:45-10:30 | Overview of India's National Security Challenges | South Block |
|  | 11:00-13:45 | NDC visit - college overview, tour, participation in a lecture, meeting with students and lunch | NDC |
|  | 14:15-15:30 | Visit the President's House / Parliament |  |
|  | 16:30-17:30 | A lecture by a Member of Parliament (if there is no visit to the President's Residence( |  |
|  | 17:30-18:30 | Getting organized at the hotel |  |
|  | 19:30 | Meal at the Attache's House |  |
|  | | | |
| **Tuesday, 14.5.19** | 7:30-8:15 | Breakfast and Check-Out | Taj Palace |
|  | 9:00-10:00 | Tour of the Israeli embassy in India | Embassy |
|  | 10:00-11:00 | Lecture on National Security in India | Embassy |
|  | 13:40-14:50 | Flight to Amritsar |  |
|  | 16:15-17:00 | Flag Ceremony | Wagah border |
|  | 18:00-20:00 | Visit the Golden Temple |  |
|  | 21:00-22:00 | Dinner | Taj Sawarna |
|  | | | |
| **Wednesday, 15.5.19** | 8:00-9:00 | Breakfast and Check Out | Taj Sawarna |
|  | 9:30-11:30 | A Survey of the area by the Commander and a Tour of the Border |  |
|  | 13:30-16:30 | Flight to Mumbai |  |
|  | 17:30-19:30 | Tour of Mumbai |  |
|  | 19:30-20:30 | Dinner and Check-In | Taj Mahal Palace |
|  | | | |
| **Thursday 16.5.19** | 7:30-8:15 | Breakfast | Taj Mahal Palace |
|  | 9:00-9:30 | Meeting with the Head of the Operations Branch in the Command | Navy |
|  | 9:30-11:00 | Review of the Maritime Challenges | Navy |
|  | 11:30-13:00 | A Tour of the Stock Market and a Review of the Economy | The Mumbai Stock Exchange |
|  | 13:30-15:30 | Lunch and an Internal Summary | Taj Mahal Palace |
|  | 15:30-19:30 | Free Time |  |
|  |  | Flight Back to Israel |  |

**Book Questions Questions**

* • Political aspect - India's foreign relations with the superpowers (US, Russia, China).
* • Security aspect - a country in protracted conflict with Pakistan. How is it expressed and how it affects our relationship with us?
* • Economic aspect - a country that wants to be a superpower. How does this manifest itself?
* • Social aspect - challenges and trends in social depth in India and their inherent risks.
* **General research questions**
* • What is the strategic culture, the strategic approach, and how does the expression "otherness" come about?

## • Presentation of the structure of the government vis-a-vis the outside and internal, and how decisions are made.

## **General Data**

**ndia** ([ISO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_15919): *Bhārat*), also known as the **Republic of India** (ISO: *Bhārat Gaṇarājya*),[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-Clementin-Ojha-23)[[e]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-24) is a country in [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia). It is the [seventh largest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) country by area and with more than [1.3 billion people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_India), it is the [second most populous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population) country as well as the most populous democracy in the world. Bounded by the [Indian Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean) on the south, the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) on the southwest, and the [Bay of Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Bengal) on the southeast, it shares land borders with [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) to the west;[[f]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-25) [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal), and [Bhutan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhutan) to the northeast; and [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh) and [Myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar) to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) and the [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives), while its [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andaman_and_Nicobar_Islands) share a maritime border with [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand) and [Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia).



As a country with nuclear weapons officially and as a regional power, India has the third largest military power in the world and has the fifth largest defense budget.

**Geography and climate**

ndia comprises the bulk of the Indian subcontinent, lying atop the [Indian tectonic plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Plate), a part of the [Indo-Australian Plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Australian_Plate).[[117]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEAliAitchison2005-123) India's defining geological processes began 75 million years ago when the Indian plate, then part of the southern supercontinent [Gondwana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondwana), began a north-eastward [drift](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plate_tectonics) caused by [seafloor spreading](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seafloor_spreading) to its south-west and, later, south and south-east.[[117]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEAliAitchison2005-123) Simultaneously, the vast [Tethyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tethys_Ocean) [oceanic crust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanic_crust), to its northeast, began to [subduct](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subduction) under the [Eurasian plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_plate).[[117]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEAliAitchison2005-123) These dual processes, driven by convection in the Earth's [mantle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantle_(geology)), both created the [Indian Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean) and caused the Indian [continental crust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_crust) eventually to under-thrust Eurasia and to uplift the [Himalayas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayas).[[117]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEAliAitchison2005-123) Immediately south of the emerging Himalayas, plate movement created a vast [trough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trough_(geology)) that rapidly filled with river-borne sediment[[118]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg7-124) and now constitutes the [Indo-Gangetic Plain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Gangetic_Plain).[[119]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPrakash_et_al.2000-125) Cut off from the plain by the ancient [Aravalli Range](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aravalli_Range) lies the [Thar Desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thar_Desert).[[120]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg11-126)

The original Indian plate survives as [peninsular India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_India), the oldest and geologically most stable part of India. It extends as far north as the [Satpura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satpura_Range) and [Vindhya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vindhya_Range) ranges in central India. These parallel chains run from the Arabian Sea coast in Gujarat in the west to the coal-rich [Chota Nagpur Plateau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chota_Nagpur_Plateau) in Jharkhand in the east.[[121]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg8-127) To the south, the remaining peninsular landmass, the [Deccan Plateau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deccan_Plateau), is flanked on the west and east by coastal ranges known as the [Western](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Ghats) and [Eastern Ghats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Ghats);[[122]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg9%E2%80%9310-128) the plateau contains the country's oldest rock formations, some over one billion years old. Constituted in such fashion, India lies to the north of the equator between 6° 44' and 35° 30' north latitude[[g]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-129) and 68° 7' and 97° 25' east longitude.[[123]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEMinistry_of_Information_and_Broadcasting20071-130)

India's coastline measures 7,517 kilometres (4,700 mi) in length; of this distance, 5,423 kilometres (3,400 mi) belong to peninsular India and 2,094 kilometres (1,300 mi) to the Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep island chains.[[124]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEKumarPathakPednekarRaju2006-131) According to the Indian naval hydrographic charts, the mainland coastline consists of the following: 43% sandy beaches; 11% rocky shores, including cliffs; and 46% [mudflats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mudflat) or marshy shores.[[124]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEKumarPathakPednekarRaju2006-131)

Major Himalayan-origin rivers that substantially flow through India include the [Ganges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganges) and the [Brahmaputra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brahmaputra_River), both of which drain into the [Bay of Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Bengal).[[125]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg15-132) Important tributaries of the Ganges include the [Yamuna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamuna) and the [Kosi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosi_River); the latter's extremely low gradient often leads to severe floods and course changes.[[126]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDuff1993353-133) Major peninsular rivers, whose steeper gradients prevent their waters from flooding, include the [Godavari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Godavari_River), the [Mahanadi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahanadi_River), the [Kaveri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaveri_River), and the [Krishna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krishna_River), which also drain into the Bay of Bengal;[[127]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg16-134) and the [Narmada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narmada_River) and the [Tapti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tapti_River), which drain into the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea).[[128]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg17-135) Coastal features include the marshy [Rann of Kutch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rann_of_Kutch) of western India and the alluvial [Sundarbans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sundarbans) delta of eastern India; the latter is shared with Bangladesh.[[129]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg12-136) India has two [archipelagos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archipelago): the [Lakshadweep](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakshadweep), [coral atolls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atoll) off India's south-western coast; and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a volcanic chain in the [Andaman Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andaman_Sea).[[130]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDikshit_&_Schwartzberg13-137)

The [Indian climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_India) is strongly influenced by the Himalayas and the Thar Desert, both of which drive the economically and culturally pivotal summer and winter [monsoons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsoon).[[131]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChang1967391%E2%80%93394-138) The Himalayas prevent cold Central Asian [katabatic winds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katabatic_wind) from blowing in, keeping the bulk of the Indian subcontinent warmer than most locations at similar latitudes.[[132]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEPosey1994118-139)[[133]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEWolpert20034-140) The Thar Desert plays a crucial role in attracting the moisture-laden south-west summer monsoon winds that, between June and October, provide the majority of India's rainfall.[[131]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChang1967391%E2%80%93394-138) Four major climatic groupings predominate in India: [tropical wet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_India#Tropical_wet), [tropical dry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_India#Tropical_dry), [subtropical humid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_India#Subtropical_humid), and [montane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_India#Mountain).[[134]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEHeitzmanWorden199697-141)

## **History**

The Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's oldest, flourished during the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. and extended into northwestern India. Aryan tribes from the northwest infiltrated the Indian subcontinent about 1500 B.C.; their merger with the earlier Dravidian inhabitants created the classical Indian culture. The Maurya Empire of the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. - which reached its zenith under ASHOKA - united much of South Asia. The Golden Age ushered in by the Gupta dynasty (4th to 6th centuries A.D.) saw a flowering of Indian science, art, and culture. Islam spread across the subcontinent over a period of 700 years. In the 10th and 11th centuries, Turks and Afghans invaded India and established the Delhi Sultanate. In the early 16th century, the Emperor BABUR established the Mughal Dynasty, which ruled India for more than three centuries. European explorers began establishing footholds in India during the 16th century.

By the 19th century, Great Britain had become the dominant political power on the subcontinent and India was seen as the "Jewel in the Crown" of the British Empire. The British Indian Army played a vital role in both World Wars. Years of nonviolent resistance to British rule, led by Mohandas GANDHI and Jawaharlal NEHRU, eventually resulted in Indian independence in 1947. Large-scale communal violence took place before and after the subcontinent partition into two separate states - India and Pakistan. The neighboring nations have fought three wars since independence, the last of which was in 1971 and resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. India's nuclear weapons tests in 1998 emboldened Pakistan to conduct its own tests that same year. In November 2008, terrorists originating from Pakistan conducted a series of coordinated attacks in Mumbai, India's financial capital.

## **Politics and Government**

India is the world's most populous democracy.[[148]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEUnited_Nations_Population_Division-155) A parliamentary republic with a [multi-party system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multi-party_system),[[149]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEBurnellCalvert1999125-156) it has seven recognised [national parties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_recognised_political_parties_in_India#National), including the [Indian National Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_National_Congress) and the [Bharatiya Janata Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bharatiya_Janata_Party) (BJP), and more than 40 [regional parties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_recognised_political_parties_in_India#State).[[150]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEElection_Commission_of_India-157) The Congress is considered centre-left in Indian [political culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_culture),[[151]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-158) and the BJP [right-wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right-wing_politics).[[152]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEMalikSingh1992318%E2%80%93336-159)[[153]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEBBC2012-160)[[154]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEBanerjee20053118-161) For most of the period between 1950—when India first became a republic—and the late 1980s, the Congress held a majority in the parliament. Since then, however, it has increasingly shared the political stage with the BJP,[[155]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTESarkar200784-162) as well as with powerful regional parties which have often forced the creation of multi-party [coalition governments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coalition_government) at the centre.[[156]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChander2004117-163)

In the Republic of India's first three general elections, in 1951, 1957, and 1962, the [Jawaharlal Nehru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jawaharlal_Nehru)-led Congress won easy victories. On Nehru's death in 1964, [Lal Bahadur Shastri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lal_Bahadur_Shastri) briefly became prime minister; he was succeeded, after his own unexpected death in 1966, by [Indira Gandhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indira_Gandhi), who went on to lead the Congress to election victories in 1967 and 1971. Following public discontent with the [state of emergency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Emergency_(India))she declared in 1975, the Congress was voted out of power in 1977; the then-new [Janata Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janata_Party), which had opposed the emergency, was voted in. Its government lasted just over two years. Voted back into power in 1980, the Congress saw a change in leadership in 1984, when Indira Gandhi was assassinated; she was succeeded by her son [Rajiv Gandhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajiv_Gandhi), who won an easy victory in the general elections later that year. The Congress was voted out again in 1989 when a [National Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Front_(India)) coalition, led by the newly formed [Janata Dal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janata_Dal) in alliance with the [Left Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_India_(Marxist)), won the elections; that government too proved relatively short-lived, lasting just under two years.[[157]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEBhambhri1992118,_143-164) Elections were held again in 1991; no party won an absolute majority. The Congress, as the largest single party, was able to form a [minority government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority_government) led by [P. V. Narasimha Rao](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P._V._Narasimha_Rao).[[158]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEThe_Hindu_2008-165)

A two-year period of political turmoil followed the general election of 1996. Several short-lived alliances shared power at the centre. The BJP formed a government briefly in 1996; it was followed by two comparatively long-lasting [United Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Front_(India)) coalitions, which depended on external support. In 1998, the BJP was able to form a successful coalition, the [National Democratic Alliance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Democratic_Alliance_(India)) (NDA). Led by [Atal Bihari Vajpayee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atal_Bihari_Vajpayee), the NDA became the first non-Congress, [coalition government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coalition_government) to complete a five-year term.[[159]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDunleavyDiwakarDunleavy2007-166) In the [2004 Indian general elections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_general_election,_2004), again no party won an absolute majority, but the Congress emerged as the largest single party, forming another successful coalition: the [United Progressive Alliance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Progressive_Alliance) (UPA). It had the support of left-leaning parties and MPs who opposed the BJP. The UPA returned to power in the [2009 general election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_general_election,_2009) with increased numbers, and it no longer required external support from [India's communist parties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism_in_India).[[160]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEKulkeRothermund2004384-167) That year, [Manmohan Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manmohan_Singh) became the first prime minister since [Jawaharlal Nehru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jawaharlal_Nehru) in [1957](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_general_election,_1957) and [1962](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_general_election,_1962) to be re-elected to a consecutive five-year term.[[161]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-FOOTNOTEBusiness_Standard2009-168) In the [2014 general election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Indian_general_election), the BJP became the first political party since 1984 to win a majority and govern without the support of other parties.[[162]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India#cite_note-169) The incumbent Indian prime minister is [Narendra Modi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narendra_Modi), a former [chief minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_minister_(India)) of [Gujarat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat). On 20 July 2017, [Ram Nath Kovind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ram_Nath_Kovind) was elected India's 14th president and took the oath of office on 25 July 2017

### **Indian General Election 2019**

|  |
| --- |
| **Period of voting: April and May 2019**  **Target: Parliament, 545 seats**  **Number of eligible voters: 900 million**  **Number of polling stations: 800,000**  **Number of workers and security personnel at the polls: 11 million**  **Date of publication of the results: 23.5.19** |

More than an eighth of humanity will have an opportunity to vote in April and May 2019 in the general elections. These voters speak 22 official languages and thousands of dialects. Tens of millions of them have never learned to read amd write . They will vote from the Himalayas in the north to the Nicobar and Andaman Islands in the south; In tribal communities without running water or electricity; In the subtly southern neighborhoods of Delhi and the crowded slums of Mumbai.

The voting process, which is spread over several weeks, allows 11 million polling station workers and security personnel to manage more than 800,000 polling stations. Most importantly, the procedure allows federal security forces - known as hard to influence or intimidate them like the local police - to safely secure all ballot boxes. **The vast mass of workers and voting machines is driven across the country by vehicles, helicopters, canals, activists, ox-carts and boats. The total cost of elections in the country is more than five billion dollars.**

Any Indian citizen over the age of 18 is entitled to vote, as long as he is not in prison, declared mentally unfit or convicted of electoral offenses such as bribery. This year's election book **includes 900 million voters** - three times the US population - more than 84 million of them will vote for the first time, making Indian young people's aspirations a major election issue.

The Indian Election Commission is committed to ensuring that everyone can vote. In the province of Kerala, for example, in 2004 only one person voted. Authorities tried to persuade him to go to polling stations in another area but he refused. So a team of six people set up a ballot box for one person who, by the way, gave them five hours to appear at the ballot box.

How are the elections going?

In India, electronic voting machines measure the size of a briefcase. These measures are controversial. State parties regularly claim that they are hacking machines, programming them for the ruling party or slowing their work in areas where the ruling party is weak. None of these claims has ever been proven.

In 2017, the CEC invited all parties to try to break into electronic voting machines. No party has succeeded in doing so. According to Election Commission officials, electronic voting machines are more environmentally friendly

How does the electoral system work?

The voting for the Luke Sabha takes place in the majority method. In other words, the highest number of votes on a given seat is declared a winner, even if he receives less than 50% of the vote. Critics argue that it leads to contradictions between the number of votes a party receives and the number of seats it receives in parliament. In the previous elections, for example, a BJP party received 31% of the vote and won 282 seats - 114 seats more than it would have received had elections been held by the proportional system, in which the seats are proportionately distributed among the votes. Its main rival, the Congress Party, received 19% in the last elections, but won only 44 seats - 61 seats less than it would have won in the proportional election. India's voter turnout is usually around 60%, but in 2014 it was a record 66.4% - an expression of the great momentum accumulated by Prime Minister Nardanara Moody and his BJP party.

What about fakes and violence during the vote?

In the vast majority of the country, the elections in India are usually run smoothly. No ballot box is perfect, and the parties are always accusing each other of violating the Code of Conduct that keeps candidates running a campaign. In 2011, Hillary Clinton echoed the views of many when she said that the elections in India were a example of perfect elections for the world.

However, since the 1970s, violence has been an integral part of the elections - though not at such a serious level as to threaten the process. The most significant threat to the voting process is in combat zones between government forces and Maoist rebels, which surround significant parts of India, and has been going on for more than 50 years.

Will “Fake News” play a big role in the elections?

The number of Indians connected to the network now stands at 500 million, more than double the number in 2014. According to the Internet and Cellular Association of India. The big political parties have established networks that employ tens of thousands of activists who help them spread their messages on Facebook, Twitter, Watsap and the popular Ticktok application.

A lot of things are being circulated on the Indian networks. For example, pictures of a woman in a bikini claimed to be Sonia Gandhi, former leader of the Indian National Congress Party. In fact, these pictures showed Ursula Andres, the first Bond girl.

The Election Commission in India can do very little to stop the flow of false information. However, **authorities in the country have struck an agreement with the major social networks in an attempt to remove as soon as possible false content.** The apps themselves work with communications companies to test facts, and they also warn their users not to believe anything they read.

When will we know the results?

The counting day was set for May 23. Each district will begin to calculate the votes from all polls from around 8 am (local time). In the case of a clear result, as was the case in 2014, the composition of the next Indian government may turn out already at 12:00. In case there is a close battle, the results will be postponed to the evening..

The process of forming coalitions in India may sometimes be much more messy than the election campaign itself. Parties are generally accused of trying to entice opponents to cross the lines with promises to ministerial posts, projects to their voters or money suitcases.

In recent years there has been an upsurge in **"resort politics**" in which party leaders are camping out at five-star resorts and boycotting their phones to prevent them from accepting a proposal to move to the opposing side.

After the crossing of lines became a widespread phenomenon in the 1960s and 1970s - a legislator in the state of Haryana replaced parties three times in 1967 - a law was introduced into the Indian constitution **against defections**. On paper, the law prohibits elected party members from moving to another party or joining new parties after the election. But in practice, **the law is not consistently applied and the celebration of shopping for the parties still continues**.

What do they vote for?

**The elections determine the composition of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, with 545 seats. The political body that succeeds in forming a coalition becomes a government and its leader is the prime minister.**.

What is this time in the Indian elections?

Prime Minister Moody and his supporters establishing India as a world power. According to them, the country has a leader who has exploited his large majority in parliament to carry out some important reforms, such as tax on goods and services, free medical services for the poor and national bankruptcy law. But all the elements of the "new India" have not yet been laid. Moody's supporters say he needs an additional term in order to implement land reform, a national insurance plan for the country as a whole, and the largest biometric database in the world. Moody's Labor Party chairman will also say: The prime minister needs more time to reshape the country's character and institutions. In other words, to transform it from the secular and multicultural version of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru into a Hindu nation.

Moody's rivals, including Congressman Rahul Gandhi, say the prime minister has spent the last five years undermining the country's free institutions: intervening in the Supreme Court, frightening the media, undermining the central bank and encouraging the police to turn a blind eye to attacks by Muslims and other minorities on By Hindu gangs. Critics say Moody was unable to create new jobs, wrecking India's image as a tolerant state and giving preferential treatment to rich and wealthy corporations over the poor.

Moody's aggressive style was sharply criticized. Opposition leaders with different agendas joined forces to form alliances against Moody. It is clear that one party will not be able to topple Moody from power, but a broad coalition of leaders may be the solution of the opposition to the Indian prime minister.

מה אומרים הסקרים?

הזירה הפוליטית בהודו מורכבת ביותר עם **אלפי מועמדים ומאות מפלגות** שמנסות להקים **קואליציות שחוצות הבדלים בין קאסטות, דתות ושפות**. אפילו הסוקרים במדינה מתקשים להבין את מה שמתרחש לפני הבחירות ורק מעטים הצליחו לחזות באופן מדויק את התוצאה של שלוש מערכות הבחירות האחרונות.

בחודש דצמבר, מפלגתו של מודי הפסידה ביום אחד בבחירות שנערכו בשלוש מדינות. סקרים שנערכו בשני החודשים הראשונים של 2019 הראו שמפלגת השלטון מאבדת מושבים וגם את הרוב שלה בפרלמנט, אם כי היא נשארת המפלגה הגדולה בבית הנבחרים. אלא שבחודש האחרון, מאז שמטוסי קרב הודיים חצו את הגבול ותקפו בשטח פקיסטאן, התמיכה הציבורית במודי ובמפלגתו רשמה עלייה. שלושה סקרים שנערכו במארס הראו שראש הממשלה מנצח ברוב קטן, אולם לא מעט פרשנים מתייחסים לסקרים בחשדנות.

מהן הסוגיות המרכזיות בבחירות?

הסוגיות שמטרידות את 1.3 מיליארד אזרחיה של הודו שונות ממחוז למחוז, וכל קמפיין של מועמד מכוון את מסריו בהתאם לקהל הבוחרים המקומי. מפלגת השלטון ההינדית-לאומנית, למשל, הבטיחה שתפסיק את השחיטה של פרות באזור שרוב תושביו הינדים. אולם באותה עת היא הבטיחה לשפר את איכות בשר הבקר באזור שרוב תושביו נוצרים.

סוגיות נוספות שעומדות בראש סדר היום: סיוע לחקלאים, יצירת מקומות עבודה חדשים, ביטחון לאומי (בייחוד על רקע העימות האחרון עם פקיסטאן), דת ועצמאות מוסדות השלטון.

כתבה: לקראת הבחירות בהודו, הפך מודי את הפסטיבל הדתי הגדול בעולם לאירוע בחירות

ניו יורק טיימס

פעם בשש שנים נוהרים עשרות מיליוני הינדואים לעיר פראיאגראג' שבצפון הודו כדי להשתתף בטבילה הקדושה בנהר הגנגס. הפסטיבל, ששמו קומבה מלה נחשב לכינוס ההמונים הגדול ביותר על פני כדור הארץ. למרבה שמחתו ומזלו של ראש ממשלת הודו, נרנדה מודי, השנה מתנגש הפסטיבל בבחירות הכלליות במדינה.

כדי לרצות את הבוחרים ולהסיט את תשומת הלב מהבעיות במדינה, הפכו מודי ובעלי בריתו את הפסטיבל לאירוע הגדול והיקר ביותר בהיסטוריה של הודו. בשבועות שלפני פתיחת הפסטיבל, ב-15 בינואר, כבר היה כמעט בלתי אפשרי ללכת 20 צעדים מבלי להיתקל בכרזות שעליהן תמונותיהם של מודי ובעל בריתו הקרוב יוגי אדיטיאנת, ראש ממשלת מדינת אוטאר פראדש בה נערך הפסטיבל.

הקואליציה הלאומנית־הינדית של מודי שיתפה פעולה עם אדיטיאנת, וביחד הצליחו לאשר עבודות תשתית בסכום של 600 מיליון דולר וכללו תשעה מחלפים, 22 גשרים, כבישים באורך של כ–240 ק"מ, 20 אלף פחי אשפה, 40 אלף נורות לד, 122,500 תאי שירותים ומסוף נוסעים חדש בנמל התעופה. מודי מקווה ששורת החידושים הללו יצליחו לשכנע את הבוחרים ביעילותו לקראת הבחירות, שייערכו באפריל או במאי, ולהשכיח מהם את נתוני האבטלה המאמירים תחת שלטונו.

המרוויחים העיקריים הם ההינדואים. דוגמה טובה לכך היא סגירתם הזמנית של מפעלי העורות המזהמים הפזורים לאורך הגנגס - מפעלים של בני המיעוט המוסלמי בהודו ובני הקסטות הנמוכות - בהוראתו של אדיטיאנת. למרות פניות לבתי המשפט, המפעלים נותרו סגורים, ובזמן שעשרות מיליוני הינדואים חגגו, נותרו מיליוני מוסלמים ובני הקסטות הנמוכות ללא עבודה. "זה נעשה במכוון, כדי לפגוע בחלק מהאוכלוסייה", אמר טאג' אלאם, סגן נשיא איגוד תעשייני העור באוטאר פראדש.

אדיטיאנת שולט במדינה המאוכלסת ביותר בהודו, בה חיים 230 מיליון בני אדם. הוא נחשב לאחר מהפוליטיקאים המובילים בהודו, שני למודי. הוא דוגל במשמעת, ולדברי באי הפסטיבל, השנה נשמרו בקפדנות הסדר והנקיון, והחגיגות היו מאורגנות היטב. התנועה זורמת, אין קבצנים והאשפה לא נערמת. על גדת הנהר הוצבו מלתחות, כדי שהעולים לרגל, במיוחד הנשים, יזכו למעט פרטיות.

ראשי האופוזיציה זועמים מהתנהלות מודי ואדיטיאנת. לטענתם, המדינה אינה אמורה לסייע לבני דת מסוימת על חשבון דתות אחרות. "זו מדינה חילונית וכך עליה להישאר", אמר דובר מפלגת בהוג'אן סמאג'. "מדוע הם מבזבזים את כספי משלם המסים בצורה כזאת"?

הפסטיבל השנה, שהחל בינואר ויימשך עד תחילת מארס, לא נחשב לקומבה מלא - אלא לחצי קומבה. מסורת ה"חצי קומבה" החלה לפני שנים, כשקדושי הדת נהגו להיפגש אחת לשש שנים, במעין נקודת אמצע בין הפסטיבלים המלאים. אולם, לפני מספר חודשים הכריז אדיטיאנת כי בהינדואיזם אין משהו שאינו שלם, וכי המלה "חצי" אינה הולמת את פילוסופיית הדת. משום כך החליט שחצי הקומבה השנה יהיה קומבה מלא, והוציא סכום גדול פי שלושה מזה שהוצא בקומבה המלא האחרון שנחגג ב–2013.

העיקר בפסטיבל היא הטבילה, וההינדואים מאמינים שהמיקום הטוב ביותר לכך יהיה בנקודה בה הגנגס מתאחד עם שני נהרות, הסראסוואטי והיאמונה. הבעיה היא שקל יותר לדבר על הטבילה מאשר ליישם אותה. כמעט בלתי אפשרי להתפשט בצפיפות המותירה סנטימטרים בודדים בין אדם לאדם, כאשר אין מקום להניח את החפצים האישיים וכל זאת כשקהל של מיליון בני אדם נדחף מאחור.

דסוואנטי פאטל, איכרה מכפר הנמצא במרחק שעתיים נסיעה, הגיעה לחגיגות בקרון שנגרר על ידי טרקטור. היא נדהמה מהתפאורות הנוצצות, מהאורות המסנוורים ומכרזות הווידאו שזהרו בכל מקום. "לא הוציאו אפילו חלקיק מהכסף הזה באזור שלנו", אמרה פאטל. "אנחנו חיים בכפר, בבית שבנוי מקש ובוץ". בבחירות האחרונות הצביעה פאטל למודי. כשנשאלה אם תעשה זאת שוב בבחירות הקרובות, חשבה רגע וענתה, "נחכה ונראה".

**India - Israel Relations**

On the 17th of September 1950, India officially recognized the state of Israel. Shortly thereafter, the Jewish Agency established an immigration office in Bombay (Mumbai's former name). Over time, the Immigration Office was converted into a trade office and a few years later, the Ministry of Commerce became a consulate.

Following the decision to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries, in February 1992 Israel opened an embassy in the capital of India, New Delhi. India opened a government embassy in Tel Aviv a few months later, on 15 May 1992. It marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations, in which the rapid growth between the two countries could be seen over a wide range of cooperative efforts.

It is possible that the connection between the two countries flourished on the due to similarities in the administration: parliamentary democracy; similar legal structures; liberal education system; knowledge and control of the English language; the similar strengths in industries based on scientific and technical manpower and the long-standing Jewish presence in India, in which the Jewish community was a partner to the fabric of life in Indian society, with other communities and not persecuted.

India is the largest purchaser of Israeli military equipment and Israel is India's second largest military partner after Russia. The military cooperation between the two countries includes technological upgrades, joint research, intelligence cooperation, etc. From the naval perspective, Israel attaches great strategic importance to the alliance with the Indian Navy (considering India's dominance in the South Asian Sea) and sees potential in establishing a logistics infrastructure in the Indian Ocean with the help of the Navy .

The bilateral relations between India and Israel have grown significantly in recent years: many collaborations have been launched in agriculture, science, health, IT, telecommunications and cooperation in Israeli industry. India and Israel are in the process of negotiating a free trade agreement, which is expected to develop a triangular trade between the two countries, and India is now the second largest Asian trading partner for Israel, after China.

**Cooperation agreements**

Since the 1990s, the governments of Israel and India have signed cooperation agreements in the areas of agriculture, communications, commerce, investments, research and development, environmental protection and medicines.

In the past 15 years, the two countries have signed a series of agreements to strengthen economic cooperation. In addition, Israel has been negotiating the signing of a Free Trade Area Agreement with India since 2010 - the establishment of a comprehensive free trade agreement between the two countries.

Many Israeli companies have set up research and development centers in India, opened representative offices and manufacturing plants: Teva and Netafim opened factories in India, as well as high-tech companies such as Check Point, Amdocs, Magic Software, Ness Technologies "etc**.**.

**Economy and Employment**

In the 1990s, India underwent a process of liberalization and economic reform that opened the Indian economy to international trade and investment.

Indian GDP in 2014 was fourth in the world (after the EU, China and the United States) in terms of purchasing power parity (and ninth in the world in nominal terms). The Indian economy is growing at a rapid pace. Nevertheless, per capita annual income is only about $1688 dollars (about ($ 6209 in terms of purchasing power parity) and 37% of the population is below the poverty line, the Indian workforce is almost half a billion people, and India's GDP growth in 2006-2007 was one of the highest in the world - more than 9% per year, Of the global economic crisis of 2008-2010, to 7% per year. Inflation rose to more than 9%. Foreign investors are increasingly investing in the growing economy of India and its stock market.

The Indian currency is the Indian rupee and is divided into one hundred and fifty. As of January 2019, one US dollar is worth about 70 rupees.

As of 2008, there were over one million families in India with incomes exceeding $ 100,000 a year and 27 billionaires. In 2013, the number of billionaires in India rose to 55 and in 2018 to 101 (compared to Russia - 96 and Britain - 54, fourth in the world after the US, China and Germany).

India is the seventh largest country in the world by size and the second largest in the world by population. India is also the largest democracy in the world, consisting of a federation of 29 countries, 7 'union territories' of which one is independent - Delhi, the capital. In each state the government is elected in local elections, while in the 'territories of the Union' the government is determined by the federal government.

India's economy is the second largest in Asia (after China and Japan) and the fourth largest in the world with an official GDP of $ 2.6 trillion, as of 2017, and an average annual growth rate of about 7%.

India is gradually becoming an open market economy, but it still has many aspects of the socialist economic policy it used to have in the past. Economic liberalization measures, including the removal of tight government control over the industry, the privatization of state-owned enterprises, and reduced control over foreign trade and investment, began as early as 1990 and were intended to accelerate the country's growth.

The diverse economy of India is comprehensive and includes: traditional rural agriculture - modern, handicrafts, a variety of modern - traditional industries and services. About half of the workforce in India is engaged in agriculture, but it is precisely the service sector in India that is the main source of economic growth, while employing only one-third of the workforce. The service industry relies on a large, educated English-speaking population, accounting for about a third of the output, and empowering India as a major exporter of IT services outsourcing a variety of business services and software processing services.

India's economic growth began to slow in 2011 due to a drop in investment, rising inflation and pessimism among investors regarding the government's commitment to economic reforms against the background of the global situation. However, in 2014 and 2015, growth again exceeded 7% per year. The growth

can be attributed to the positive change that occurred at the beginning of 2014 in the way India is perceived as an investment target, against the background of the decline in the government deficit and the expectations for economic reforms after the elections. The inflow of capital inflows led to stabilization of the value of the Rupee currency.

Since the general election in India, which took place in April 2014, and the entry of the Federal Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, office launched a series of economic reforms that build on the changes in the administrative, bureaucratic, legal, and government designed to propel the economy.The main initiatives of the Indian government in recent year

A. Made in India - A government program to attract foreign investment in manufacturing in India. It was designed to reduce India's dependence on imports, a reduction in the trade deficit, and economic growth. The MII has become a guiding title, especially in the field of military industry, although it is not always clear how India is supposed to become a service powerhouse, a production power, without providing the infrastructure. Therefore, there is confusion among both foreign and local manufacturers about the future of the program.

B. Digital India - a program whose main thrust is the transfer of production lines in electronics to India. In addition, the program's components include a huge investment in optical fiber systems, online government, and extensive access to the Internet.

C. Cleaning the River Ganges - Modi has set himself a primary goal, and is to purify the holy river for the Hindus. A large number of entities are involved in the mega project, including government ministries, regional states, international financing bodies and the business sector.

D. Smart Cities, and the Minister of Urban Development, Naidu, inaugurated in July 2015 the government plan for the establishment of 100 smart cities, rehabilitation and development of 500 additional cities, and urban rehabilitation of cities with tourism potential, including renovation of infrastructure, transportation, water, Energy and personal security.

G. Bankruptcy laws and new insolvency that constituted a significant reform in relation to the past. A reform of Indian VAT was also introduced to strengthen collection.

The outlook for India's long-term growth is positive, given that it is characterized by a young population, low dependence on foreign economies, improved investment rates in national infrastructures, and a growing trend of integration into the global economy. However, the existing and widespread discrimination against women in the labor market, the absence of an efficient system for the operation of productive and distribution power, the lack of effective enforcement of intellectual property rights, poor transportation conditions, poor infrastructure, the lack of modern agricultural infrastructure, the lack of "non-agricultural" employment opportunities The lack of vocational training for the masses relevant to the employment cycle, the insufficient availability of higher education, and the tendency to migrate from the rural area to the city - all these constitute challenges that inhibit economic growth and growth in the long term.

  India's annual growth rate (main growth - in the services and industry): It is important to note that India's different countries are often very different from each other, in their level of growth and economic management.

The Indian Rupee depreciated significantly in 2018 and stabilized in recent months. India's foreign exchange reserves are stable, and in 2019 the Indian balance of payments improved and is expected to stand at 2.2% assuming oil prices of $ 65 per barrel.

As of the eve of the elections, the Indian economy appears to be strong relative to previous years: GDP is growing, investments are rising, interest rates are high, credit is characterized by healthy growth rates, and the currency is currently enjoying stability. The elections.

The main industries in GDP in India:

• Services - Over the last few years, this sector has absorbed a large part of the GDP, mainly due to the fact that a large part of its population speaks English and therefore India has become a center of support and service for international companies.

• Agriculture - In recent years, growth has been due to precipitation stabilization. Dependence on the weather threatens growth, and therefore, unlike the services industry, the share of this sector in the GDP is expected to decrease.

• Manufacturing - this sector constitutes 30% of the GDP, and according to the forecast, this trend will be maintained in the coming years.

Trade data of India

Exports from India to the world stood at $ 487 billion in 2014: India exported mainly textile and gemstone products this year. In recent years there has been an increase in exports of engineering products, which account for 19% of exports. One of the largest oil exporters in Asia also accounted for 18% of total exports. Jewelry and gemstones comprise 15% of exports, 13% chemicals, 9% agricultural products and 9% textile. India generally exports mainly petroleum products, precious stones, automobiles, mechanical equipment, iron and steel, chemicals, pharma, cereals and clothing.

India's imports from the world stood at $ 536 billion. India mainly imports: crude oil, precious stones, mechanical equipment, chemicals, fertilizers, plastics, iron and steel products. From Israel it imports mainly diamonds, textiles, plants - vegetables, metals, minerals, plastics and rubber, machinery and mechanical devices, chemicals. From India, India mainly imports (2014): gemstones and diamonds, minerals, chemicals, fertilizers, communications equipment, optical equipment, laboratory equipment, mechanical and electronic equipment, cheap metals and glass. Total Israeli exports to India, excluding diamonds (2017): $ 0.95 billion (almost 30% of exports in 2015.) Israel's imports from India totaled $ 0.92 billion in 2017.

Employment data

The labor force (15-65) - about half a billion people.

Minimum wage: between $ 130 per month for non-professional workers and $ 160 for professional workers.

Historical background

In 1991, in light of the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the rapprochement with Western countries, India decided to change its socioeconomic direction.

The economic reforms announced in 1991 aimed at moderating economic concentration and attracting foreign investment have put India on a path of steady economic growth at an average annual rate of 7-8 percent, along with impressive growth in foreign investment, foreign exchange reserves, and exports.

Gradually, India has transformed from a country that maintains a closed economy into a more open economy that receives imported goods from foreign countries and allows foreign investors and investments to enter its markets. The gradual opening of the country to foreign investment, while reducing bureaucratic control over industry, removing growth barriers and increasing technological cooperation, led to a significant increase in annual growth levels. The government deficit is about 5%.

Despite the bureaucratic mechanisms of India, recent years have seen a trend of improvement on the part of the authorities in India, while constantly striving to make local businesses more competitive in the world market.

In addition to the significant strengthening of Indian services and high-tech sectors (58% of GDP) and the importance of natural resources (including coal, iron, natural gas, diamonds and oil), the agricultural sector still occupies a central position in the economy, , Which yields about 17.9% of the GNP only. The industrial sector contributes about 24% to GDP.

India's traditional strengths: a young population, intensive urbanization, English fluency, hunger for success and high personal savings. The government, and the Ministry of Finance in particular, are acting to restrain the deficit, as well as to stimulate foreign investments and infrastructure investments.

**Social issues**

**Economic growth, education and gaps**

Britain in the seventeenth century was a power in the making and sent arms all over the world, among other things to the Indian subcontinent. In 1600, the British East India Company was established, which received a concession on British trade with India and Southeast Asia. After conducting military operations against European powers, the British became in 1757 the de facto rulers of India.

With the outbreak of the Industrial Revolution, the British were able to make full use of the connection with their colonies. The Indians produced agricultural raw materials, such as tea and cotton, and most industrial production was done in Britain. The Indians had crumbs. The British merchant fleet, which led all this baggage, became the largest in the world, and Britain became a superpower. In 1800, 10 million Britons were ruled by a mercenary army of 200 million Indians. In 1857 the Indians rebelled and brought the company to an end. India had been under direct British control for 90 years.

Britain left India in 1947 and left behind a backwards and poor state. Only one-sixth of the 370 million people lived in the cities. Despite high fertility rates (six children per woman), Mahatma Gandhi, India's founding father, resisted birth control. He thought the Indians had to decide how many children they would bring to the world. After his murder, his successors in 1952 promoted his first-ever program to control birth rates. But practically nothing was done. A global drop in mortality had also reached India, and the population had grown rapidly. The Green Revolution, an American plan to improve agriculture in developing countries, brought about tremendous improvement in the 1960s and helped feed the population, but every year about 15 million mouths were added to feed.

In 1969 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi launched her own program, which included the provision of contraceptives and sterilization of men. The plan failed. In 1970 there were 550 million people living in India, and their number doubled by 2003. Only since the late 1980s did fertility rates drop, and since then the process has continued. By 2015, fertility had reached 2.3 children per woman. However, the population continues to grow by about 17 million people a year.

In recent years India has been promoting a family planning program through NRHM - the National Task Force in Rural Areas, which works to improve health in India's villages. The activity focuses mainly on the northern and agricultural countries of India, which are backward and poor. In these countries living conditions and sanitation are difficult. It is rare to find hunger in India, but undernourishment certainly exists, especially iron deficiency. Most of India's population still lives in villages, but the country is undergoing a continuous urbanization process.

Uttar Pradesh, for example, lies at the foot of the Himalayas and is known for its Taj Mahal. The country has more than 210 million inhabitants, and if it were an independent state, it would be the fifth largest in the world. Its fertility rate is high - 3.3 children per woman, and it adds 4 million people a year to the world's population, such as the US and Brazil, and only 22 percent live in cities.

In southern and central India, the situation is completely different. Countries such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala show European birth rates of 1.8 children per woman, and high urbanization rates. These countries have huge cities of more than 5 million inhabitants, such as Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mumbai. For Israelis, these names are familiar - in these cities the software industry flourishes, and they enjoy accelerated development and migration from the villages. Development is also reflected in per capita income, which is higher in the south than in the north.

At the level of education there is a gap between the regions of India: 68% are literate in the north, compared with 80% in the south. The state of Kerala is the most developed, with 94%, and represents what is expected of India as a whole. In the 1960s, its population grew by 26%, in the 1990s it grew by less than 10% and between 2001 and 2011 growth reached only 5%.

Literacy in India is on the rise: in 1961 the literacy rate was only 28% over the age of five. In 2011, this rate was 74%. This is a huge achievement given that India's education system is the largest in the world and targets more than 320 million children and youth.

The improvement in education is evident among women. In 1961, 15% of women could read and write, 54% in 2001, and 65% in 2011 (compared with 82% among men). If in the past girls in India would stay at home to help raise the younger siblings, more and more of them are going to school, while the family is shrinking.

The rise in women's education can be attributed to awareness of family planning methods and a decrease in fertility rate, and as a result of an increase in income and standard of living. As of 2012, the average fertility rate among illiterate women was 3.2 and among literate women - only 2.1. The status of women in India requires improvement from the grass roots level. Traditionally, girls marry at a very young age, less than 20 in villages, usually by matchmaking. As in China, India also has a preference for males and female abortions are common. The sex ratio at birth is 111 males per 100 females compared to 105 versus 100 naturally.

It is likely that the decline in fertility in India will continue, and that in the next few years the fertility rate will reach 2 or close to that. The rate of substitution (the fertility rate in which the population starts to stabilize) is about 2.2. Due to the large birth rate in the past, it seems that by 2050 the population of India will continue to grow, albeit at a slower pace.

Although the British government took advantage of India, it left its mark in the form of government systems, railway network and especially the English language. India is the second largest country in the world in terms of the number of English speakers after the US, and this is a source of livelihood for Indians, for example, in voice call centers of multinational companies. Of an Indian engineer could rise to $ 20,000 a year - a huge salary in India.

However, most of the development in high-tech, almost 10% of Indian GDP, is from the South. The North, where the bulk of the population is, remains behind.

Because in India there has been no industrial revolution, Indian GDP is much lower than that of China (fifth in nominal terms and half in terms of purchasing power). It is hard to believe that India will succeed in recreating the "Chinese miracle," but that the combination of low levels of GDP and wages with declining birth rates and an ambitious population could lead to growth in the foreseeable future.

**POPULATION AND RELIGION**

Religious diversity in India is great, but the most common group of religions is Hinduism, 80.4% of the population. India has a large Muslim minority, which numbers about 13.4% of the population. Other religions are Christianity (2.3%), Sikhism (1.9%), Buddhism (1.5%), Jainism (0.5%), Zoroastrians, Bahais, and shamanic tribal religions.

Hinduism has a decisive influence on the way of life and culture in India. There is a great deal of influence on the class system. In this method, people are divided into four "castes", each representing a different status, with its own rights and duties. Another division parallel to the "Varna" is the system of "Jats" - professions, which divide the people into different professions, today there are about 3,000 different Jats in the Hindu society.

The Upper Varna is the White Varna and the Brahmins' Arena, the spiritual leaders and interpreters of the Bible. The second Varna is the Red Varna and the archery of the tacitria - kings, rulers and warriors. The third Varna is the "brown Varna" - the Varde of Huysia, which includes merchants, farmers and craftsmen, and finally the "Black Varna" and the "broadcasting" Arena, the status of servants and slaves. Below and outside the Varnet system are the "Dalit" (sometimes referred to as "untouchables") who are colorless and classless and are considered "untouchables."

Despite the constitution that grants affirmative action, the lower classes, the untouchable and the tribal, usually work in the despicable jobs, and suffer humiliation from other Indians.

The Jews of India today number only 5,000 people (about half of them in Mumbai, 1,500 in Thane, 300 in Pune, and only a few dozen in Cochin, Kolkata and New Delhi); Until a few decades ago, the Jews of India numbered about three thousand. Large Jewish communities in the past lived mainly in the state of Maharashtra, where the community of Bnei Yisrael and the Jewish community of Iraq sat. There were a number of congregations in Cochin - mainly the Berbers and the Paradis. After 1948, most Jewish communities immigrated to Israel.

The traditional professions of the Jews of India were in the oil industry, and then the Jews joined the security forces and the government and even reached high positions.

The Jewish community in Mumbai is assisted by organizations that are trying to assist and support it in the future, such as the Joint, the Jewish Agency, ORT, and the Hazon Eli Association. Chabad members are active mainly among Israelis and tourists from around the world.

Throughout history, the Jews of India have not suffered from anti-Semitism or persecution by non-Jews, except those who lived under the Portuguese Inquisition. Persecution or discrimination was only on the part of the Europeans (Portuguese). The Indians themselves perceived the Jews as a religious group that had its own avatar, like other religious groups, each representing in some way the supreme divinity. Therefore they did not regard the Jews as different or foreign and did not fear them.

## **Military and military confrontations**

## The army of India was formed from the British East India Company, which later became the British Indian army and, after independence, became the Army of India. The President of India serves as the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army. The chief commander of the army is an officer with the rank of general.

## Military service in India is voluntary and despite the existence of a reserve force, it has never been activated. In 2016, the Indian army was estimated at 1,325,000 regular soldiers and another 960,000 reservists. In light of these figures, the army of India is the largest volunteer army in the world.

## **The structure of the Army**

## The army of India is divided into six regional commands; West, South-West, South, North, Central and East. They command a total of 13 corpus, with each command comprising 2-3 corps (except for the Central Command, which does not command any corps). Corps include between 2 and 5 divisions of different types. All corps (except those of the Eastern Command) are defined as Infantry Corps, but in practice they usually include a major component of infantry units - sometimes along with armored divisions, divisional units or mountain divisions. The divisions comprising the Corps of the Eastern Command are all mountain divisions (3 divisions in each corpus). This command is responsible for the mountainous sections in the northeast of the country along the border with Myanmar, China and Bangladesh.

## Similar to the British Army system used in the British Indian Army, the units fighting in the Indian Army are divided into regiments according to the recruitment area and the character of the unit. Each regiment is divided into a number of battalions and these operate under the command of operational divisions, so that each brigade is composed of regiments associated with a number of regiments. During combat or emergency, each regiment can recruit additional battalions and these are sent as needed to combat brigades and divisions. In addition, according to the operational needs, it is possible to change the order of the battalions in the brigades, thus creating great flexibility in the character and ability of the brigades and divisions.

## Infantry Regiments: The Indian Army has 31 infantry regiments, of which only five were established after India's independence and 26 were established under British rule and annexed into the new Indian army.

## Armored Regiments: The Indian Armored Corps includes a total of 62 regiments, most of them armored and some of which serve as reconnaissance or combat support units. There is also a cavalry regiment (Reg. 61). Like the leg regiments, a large part of the armored regiments were established during British rule and were annexed to the Indian army with the independence of India.

## The Artillery Regiment: Like the British Army, the Indian Artillery Corps is called the "Artillery Regiment" and despite its name is made up of a number of regiments with various positions ranging from field artillery, batteries to drones and anti-tank units.

## Engineering units: The army includes three units on the order of regiments; The Engineering Group of Madras (formerly Pelsy Madras), the Bengal Engineering Group (formerly Plesy Bengal), and the Bombay Engineering Cluster (formerly Bombay Bombay). The three units were established as engineering units according to the three historic armies during the period of British rule.

## Throughout the modern history of the Indian army, the army has been involved in a number of border conflicts, systems and wars mainly against Pakistan

## **Military confrontations**

## In the second half of the 20th century, the Indian army was involved in a large number of conflicts, wars and border disputes, mainly against Pakistan and China. India's northern borders are characterized by mountainous topography, so an important component of the Indian army are the units for mountain warfare.

## • The first Kashmir War (1947) - the first war between India and Pakistan over the control of Kashmir, the former principality of Kashmir and Nagu. After 14 months of fighting, a ceasefire was declared when Pakistan controls one-third of Kashmir and India two-thirds.

## • The India-Portugal War (1961) - a military confrontation between India and Portugal over the control of the remaining Portuguese colonies in India - Goa, Daman and Diwi. After the short confrontation, the territories were transferred to Indian control.

## • The Indo-China War (1962) - a military border dispute between India and China surrounding the Aksai Chin region, the conflict ended about a month after the Sinai victory when the region was transferred to full Chinese control.

## • The India-Pakistan War (1965) - a confrontation that began with the entry of Pakistani forces into Indian Kashmir and ended without significant results (under UN pressure) after a month of fighting.

## • The Sino-Indian border war (1967)

## • India-Pakistan War (1971) - a campaign between India and Pakistan that ended only 13 days after the victory of India and the establishment of the independent state of Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan).

## • The Siyash conflict (1984) - In response to the gradual slashing of Pakistani forces on the Szechan Glacier, Indian forces were landed and again plundered. The conflict continues to this day, with each side claiming sovereignty over the region.

## • The Kargil War (1999) - a military border dispute between India and Pakistan around the Kargil region on the border between Indian and Pakistani Kashmir. After several weeks of fighting, the Pakistanis withdrew from the area they occupied.

**Kashmir - a conflict between India and Pakistan**

Kashmir is the northern region of the Indian subcontinent, which has been a territorial dispute between India, Pakistan and China since the partition of India in 1947. Today the central part of the Kashmir region is controlled by India (as part of the Jammu and Kashmir), its western and northern part is controlled by Pakistan, East of China, as a result of several wars over control of the region. India does not recognize the control of Pakistan and China in parts of Kashmir. Pakistan sees Kashmir as a disputed area and does not recognize India's claim to control the region.

Historically Kashmir has been used to describe the fertile valley ("Kashmir Valley") south of the western tip of the Himalayas, but today it depicts a large area of ​​Kashmir, Jammu and Vladak. The Kashmir Valley itself is relatively low, very green and fertile. The valley is surrounded by mountains and many streams flow to it. It was considered one of the most spectacular landscape sites in the world and was rich in tourism until the 1980s, but this was reduced by the increasing tension in the region.

The ancient capital of Kashmir, Srinagar, lies on the shore of Lake Dal and is famous for its canals and floating "boat houses". Due to the cool and comfortable climate in which it was the preferred summer capital of many rulers of India. The Mughal emperor Jahangir established nearby the magnificent Shalimar Gardens in 1619.

Nearly 1,000 years ago Kashmir was under the rule of the rulers of Jammu - the royal family of the Hindu Dogra family. At the time, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus lived in peace and cooperation, leading to works of art in the fields of music, dance, painting, poetry, and influential philosophical thought. From that period there are also known cases where believers of two or more religions prayed in the same prayer structure (although not together).

Beginning in 1349, the region was ruled by Muslim rulers, including the Mughals, who ruled until 1751. Ranjit Singh, the maharaja of the Sikh Empire conquered the Tigris kingdom from the Afghans in the early 19th century, turned them into subordinates and joined them The rest of the Kashmiri rope and Ladakh. In 1846 the British defeated the Sikhs and appointed an Indian maharaja who would rule the whole region as a single unit.

At the time of independence from the British and the partition of India in 1947, the Muslims constituted 77% of the inhabitants of the region. Despite the Muslim majority, Kashmir was given to India by its maharaja, Harry Singh. As a result, unofficial forces began supporting Pakistan to invade Kashmir. The United Nations has managed to achieve a cease-fire, with the region divided de facto between India (about two-thirds, including the richer and more fertile Kashmir Valley, as part of the Jammu and Kashmir) to Pakistan (about a third of the Kashmir-named Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir). Is part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which is the fifth largest country in India, and covers 222,236 square kilometers.

In 1962, China took control of the northeastern part of the region and called it "Xai Chin". The Indians and the Pakistanis fought again in Kashmir in 1965 and 1971, but all Pakistan's attempts to occupy territories from the Indian part of Kashmir failed. Although Pakistan has been defeated in most of the battles, the fate of the region has not yet been settled and the situation is causing constant instability between India and Pakistan.

In 1987, Islamic activists launched a campaign to liberate Kashmir from India, but failed. As a result of the failure, the Kashmir and Jammu regions were subject to Indian rule directly. As a result, a renewed wave of violence erupted in the region beginning in the early 1990s. Between May and June 1999, the Kargil War region occurred after armed Pakistani soldiers and activists crossed the cease-fire line between the two countries. Hundreds of Pakistani and Indian soldiers were killed in the battles, and at the end the Pakistanis retreated under American pressure to the international border, and the sides signed a cease-fire. However, the terrorist acts in the Kashmir region have not ceased.

India accuses Pakistan of funding, training and sheltering Islamist terrorist organizations such as al-Taiba, which is linked to al-Qaeda, operating in Kashmir and other parts of India against Indian government targets and Western tourists. Violent border incidents frequently occur between India and Pakistan, and the latter has sometimes even shelled border towns such as Cargill.

India acquired nuclear capability, followed by Pakistan, which exacerbated the tensions between the two countries and led to concern in the world that the conflict between the two countries would spill over into a nuclear war that would affect the entire world.

In 2004 India and Pakistan began peace talks about the future of the region. In 2006, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf declared that his country was prepared to give up its territorial claims in the region if India accepted its peace plan, which includes self-government and self-rule in Kashmir

**Cinema - Bollywood**

Indian cinema is among the most developed in the world, and the film industry is huge: India produces about 900 films per year, more than any other country in the world, even more than Hollywood, which produces about 300 films a year. "Bollywood." The first Indian film was produced in 1913 by the Indian filmmaker Govind Palke.

Most Indian films feature audience preferences in combination with action, romance, music and divine struggle against evil. This type of film is called Masala, as Mesila is a combination of Indian spices. Music is a central part of most films, and often the film's songs become popular pop songs in the country. The films are recorded in 2 or 3 languages ​​to ensure a great audience.

**Culinary**

Traditional Indian cuisine is based mainly on plant sources such as legumes, vegetables, fruits, spices, as well as refined butter and cheese, and sometimes fish. A minority of Indians (especially the Muslims) also eat meat. The uniqueness of Indian cuisine as a whole is the large variety of spices as a base in the dish, which are processed each time in a different way. In some dishes the spices are ground and diluted in water or oil for ointment, and sometimes the whole pan is roasted whole before preparing the dish itself. Since India is not a country but a sub-continent, when you say "Indian cuisine" means the integration of different kitchens from this country; There are significant differences between traditional food in the south and traditional food in the north, and the food of the wealthy is different from that of the poor, and the food of the Hindus is different from that of the Muslims. However, the common origin of Indian sub-continent kitchens is the great use (in relation to other kitchens) of spices, some of which are "unique" to the country of India.

The pulses in the Indian kitchen are varied (more than 60 varieties) and include lentils, beans, peas and sourdough consumed in the form of berries and flour.

The oils used in the Indian kitchen are diverse: northern India prefer peanut oil, eastern India prefer mustard oil while in the south coconut oil is the most common. Also gaining popularity are more common oils in Western cuisine such as sunflower oil and soybean oil.

The absence of meat is one of the common characteristics of the traditional Indian diet. Meat is not served at all meals, not for all diners (there are many vegetarians), and not for the types accepted in Israel (it is rare to find beef, and is served only in Muslim restaurants in Muslim population centers located mainly in northern India). Even when meat is served, it will be significantly less than is acceptable in the West.

In this area, too, there are differences between parts of India - the South is more vegetarian, and in the north there are foods that include chicken or meat. In the high north there are also significant Tibetan influences - and the Tibetan cuisine includes meat.

The dessert will usually be a chai cup, but sometimes desserts such as sweets, lado (Indian patipur), barfi (Indian halva semolina), kulfi (Indian ice cream), Gulab Jamun or Indian pudding.

Drinks - Chai is black tea and milk - usually buffalo milk. Chai is a traditional drink originating in South Asia and is the most popular drink throughout India. One of the common types of chai is masala chai, which is added to tea from a mixture of Garam masala spices. The best tea in India is grown in Darjeeling and Bassam. The coffee is much less popular and is mainly served in southern India. Drinks - Chai is black tea and milk - usually buffalo milk. Chai is a traditional drink originating in South Asia and is the most popular drink throughout India. One of the common types of chai is masala chai, which is added to tea from a mixture of Garam masala spices. The best tea in India is grown in Darjeeling and Bassam. The coffee is much less popular and is mainly served in Southern India.

Other beverages in India are lemonade, drinks based on the concentrate of the plants and fruits called Roo Efza, a juice called sherbet that can be prepared from fruits or flowers or peppermint seeds, coconut milk and dairy drinks, the simplest of which is spicy milk. Alcoholic beverages in India are generally inferior in quality and include beer, palm wine, liqueur called Penny, made from coconut or cashews, and a beverage called Bhang Lasi from the cannabis plant and used in worship for Shiva.

**Delhi**

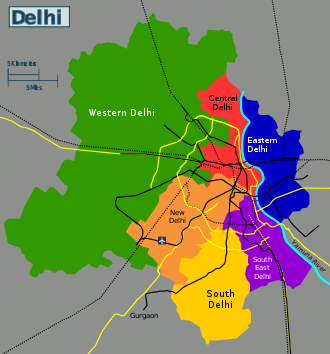
Delhi is the 8th largest metropolitan area in the world in terms of population size, and the second in India (after Mumbai) - the Delhi metropolitan area has more than 18 million people. In terms of territory it is the largest in India.

The National Capital Territory of Delhi is a special union territory managed jointly by the Government of India, local government and three municipal corporations - the New Delhi Municipal Council, which is the capital of India and is the seat of the central government, the Delhi Municipal Corporation The metropolitan area) and the "Delhi Council Council" (under the command of the Indian army).

Old Delhi, located on the western bank of the River Yamuna (one of the ganges of the Ganges), has been inhabited continuously since the 6th century BC. It houses some of the most beautiful and luxurious buildings in the world - such as the Red Fort and the huge Jama Masjid. The city has been plundered many times in its history. In 1857, at the outbreak of the Indian revolt against the British, British soldiers besieged it for four months and finally conquered it.

In 1912, the British authorities decided to relocate their capital to Delhi, and for this purpose a massive construction operation was declared - the construction of the new Delhi. It was only in the early 1930s that construction was completed and the British High Commissioner moved to it. After independence India experienced an economic boom in Delhi, which led to significant growth in its population following the migration of many villagers to the city. However, the strengthening of the city also contributed to overcrowding, traffic jams and air pollution, and to a housing shortage.

Delhi is one of the most advanced cities in India in the economic aspect and is the economic center of Northern India. Per capita income in Delhi is the third of all Indian states.



**Government Institutions:**

In New Delhi are the institutions of the Indian government - a seat and offices of the central government, the Prime Minister's Office and the residence of all members of the government and the army.

**Transportation**: The city serves Indira Gandhi International Airport, the busiest airport in India. The city operates a Delhi subway with six lines. In 2004 the city opened the first line of a subway. For short trips, the use of an auto-rickshaw is common in the city.

Jews: Arrived in Delhi in the middle of the 20th century, mainly as merchants from the Bombay community. Today, the local Jewish community of the Bnei Yisrael congregation is comprised of a few families, one synagogue and a Jewish cemetery. In addition to the community, many Israeli families are living in Delhi, as well as Jews from the Diaspora who work in the city, as well as travelers and visitors to which Delhi is a transit station.

In 1993 the Chabad House in Delhi was opened by Chabad emissaries in the Paharganj backpackers' area, also known as the Bazaar Main. In 2010, another Chabad House was opened for Jewish families living in another neighborhood.

History

The environs of historic Delhi were once capital cities of various kingdoms in the Indian subcontinent. The decline of the Mughal Empire, after the death of the ruler of Aurangzeb, the occupation and capital bombardment of Shah-Jahnabad in 1739 by the Afghan ruler Nadir Shah, the fall of the city again, by the Marian Empire and finally by the occupation and the British Raj regime.

These did not reduce (and perhaps even strengthened) Delhi's status as a city of political importance.

Delhi replaced Calcutta as the capital of India, the British colony, in 1911 and twenty years later the city became the seat of government.

Capital construction began in 1912 in the area of Raisina Hill - a few kilometers from Old Delhi and ended in 1929. Historical remains from previous periods are embedded throughout the new city.

In 1927, the city was renamed "New Delhi" and the name was changed to the New Delhi Municipal Council.

**Tourist Attractions**

**Connaught Place** is the official name of Rajiv Chowk and is known locally as C.P. It is an important business center in Delhi. This is a huge, Victorian-style square with three rings divided by 8 radial streets that begin with the inner ring and proceed in a straight line. It has branches of Western companies and they are housed in beautiful new buildings that are located in a circle around a green garden in the center of the square. In the square you can buy goods from India, from Tibetan rugs to woodwork from southern India.

Markets and Gardens: Between New Delhi and the rest of the metropolitan area are dividers 7 parks, 5 gardens and extensive urban grove.

**Museums and Antiquities:**

**•** National Railway Museum - collection of locomotives, carriages and items related to the history of the railway system of India, which was founded in the 19th century.

• The National Museum - where archaeological artifacts from the Maurya culture from the 2nd and 3rd centuries BCE are collected, as well as a display of items belonging to tribal cultures.

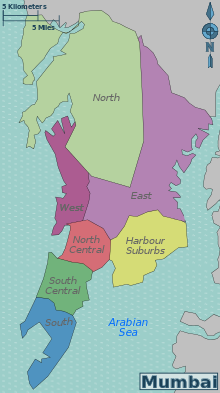
• Jantar Mantar Observatory - an area built in 1725 by the ruler of Jaipur (Jay Singh II), a collection of high-altitude sundials and astronomical measuring instruments.

• The National Gallery of Modern Art - Museum of Modern Art established in 1954 by the Government of India.

* Government Institutions and Monuments:
* • Rajapat - National Avenue
* • India Gate - a monument to the soldiers of the Indian army who died during the Afghan war. The grassy areas around the gate and the back of the spine serve as a place of rest and meeting, and during mass holidays there are mass gatherings.
* • The President's Palace - The official residence of the President of India is located at the height of Raisina Hill and is surrounded by "Mogul" plots and gardens.
* • Parliament building - where the two houses sit. It is an imposing oval building with a central hall with a diameter of about thirty meters.
* • Old Delhi - is a colorful urban complex, particularly rhythmic and crowded. The area stretches from the Red Fort in the east to the Farhang (West Bazaar). Old Delhi is characterized by great congestion, air pollution from the hardestin the world and yet, many colors, sounds and smells, a variety of markets and masses of residents demonstrating cheerfulness and joy of life.
* Red Fort - one of the largest and most impressive buildings in the Old City of Delhi. The fortress is named because of its red sandstone walls, which are 33 meters high. The huge structure is a magnificent vestige of the Moghul rulers.
* Chandni Chowk) - The main street of Old Delhi, at the eastern end of which is the red fortress, provides a colorful and impressive human performance. Street artists, markets, peddlers of all kinds, rickshaws, traffic, noise of spices and more. In the evening, the street becomes even more impressive when the traffic loads increase and the crowding becomes almost impossible.

• Jama Masjid - the largest mosque in India. Its courtyard can accommodate up to 25,000 worshipers at the same time. South of the main prayer site is a tall tower, which is highly recommended to climb to the top, with an amazing view of all of Delhi, the old and the new.

**Mumbai**

Mumbai is the largest city in India, the second largest city center in India and one of the five largest cities in the world. The population of the city has more than 12 million inhabitants, and the population of the metropolis - more than 18 million residents, with a density of about 23 thousand persons per square kilometer. Mumbai is the economic capital of India, being the hub of industry, financial activity and commerce, and the home of the managements of many large companies. In addition, Mumbai is a center of the entertainment industry, especially cinema in India. The city serves as the capital of the state of Maharashtra**.**

**Mumbai or Bombay?**

**The name Mumbai in the local language originates in the name of the Hindu goddess Mumba. Bombay was a match of the Portuguese name to English, given by the British after the city was received from the Portuguese. In the rise of the nationalist Marathi Shiv-Sanna (N) party in 1995, she announced the change of name of the city and the adoption of the local goddess, since the name Bombay came from the colonial past.**

**history**

**The historic Mumbai is built on an archipelago of seven islands. Until the 16th century the seven islands of Mumbai were populated by fishermen and passed from hand to hand. They were ruled in chronological order by local rulers, Muslim rulers, and Portuguese.**

**When Princess Catherine married Portugal's King Charles II, she gave him the place as part of her dowry. Charles II gave the place to the British East India Company which took advantage of the natural harbor and built a commercial port in the 1820s. The port brought commercial development and urban development and became the gateway to India and the center of import and export of raw materials of the East India Company.**

Commercial development brought about the need for commercial, residential and storage areas, and for the purpose of convenient transportation, thus filling the natural canals that separated the seven islands on which the city and the separate islands are located today became a continuous urban area.

Mumbai is located at the mouth of the Olhas River, on the western coast of the Indian subcontinent, in the coastal area of ​​Conakhan. The city is located on the island of Celeste, which it shares with the province of Tien. Much of the city is only slightly above sea level, with an average height of 10 to 15 meters above sea level. The north of the city is hills and the highest point in the city is 450 meters above sea level. The total area of ​​the city is 603 sq. Km.

Mumbai sits on an active seismic zone because three fault lines pass nearby. The city is defined as Seismic Region III, meaning that an earthquake of up to 6.5 on the Richter scale is expected in the region.

**Economy and employment**

**Mumbai is the largest city in India. It serves as the economic center of the country. The city accounts for about 10% of all industrial workers in the country, 40% of the state revenue from the income tax comes from the city, 60% of the state revenues from customs are originates in Mumbai, 20% of the state revenue from the source of the city origin, 40% of the country's foreign trade is conducted from the city Mumbai.**

**The average per capita income in Mumbai is almost three times the national average. Many of the giant Indian companies, in which four companies are among the 500 largest companies in the world, have set up the company's headquarters in the city.**

**Until the 1980s, Mumbai's economy was mainly based on its textile and port industries, but since then the city's economy has diversified into many other fields, including engineering, diamond polishing, healthcare and information technology.**

Mumbai also has the Abha nuclear research center and many of India's specialized industries. This is thanks to a huge pool of skilled personnel. Thanks to these, the city also attracted high-tech industries, the aerospace industry, optics, medical research and electronics. The city also has a shipyard and a sustainable energy industry.

Workers in the public sector, whether in central government offices or local government, make up a significant part of the city's workforce. The city also has a large reservoir of unskilled, or partially skilled workers, who work in manual labor. The port and the shipping industry are also prominent employers in the city. According to estimates, there are also some 15,000 small factories in a single room.

**The communications industry in Mumbai is also a prominent employer. Most of India's television stations and state telecommunications networks, as well as India's leading publishing houses, operate from headquarters in the city. The center of the popular Indian film industry, Bollywood, which is responsible for producing the largest number of films in the world, is in the city.**

**Since 1991, Mumbai has experienced rapid economic growth, as has the rest of India. The middle class in Mumbai is most responsible for this rapid growth, as the largest consumer force in the city. Mumbai was ranked among the top ten trading centers in the world.**

**demography**

**Mumbai is the most populous city in India and the second largest in the world. The sex ratio is 838 (females per 1,000 males) in the city of Guba, 857 in the suburbs, and 848 in Greater Mumbai, all numbers are lower than the national average of 914 women per 1,000 men. The low gender ratio is due to the large number of male migrants who come to the city to work. The official language of the city is Marathi, which is spoken and understood by most residents. Hindi, is also understood and spoken by the residents. English is used in the city for business and study in schools and universities.**

**The city has a diverse population: 67% Hindus, 19% Moslems, 5% Buddhists, 4% Christians, 4% Gyans and 0.6% Sikhs. This cultural diversity was created following the settlement of people from all over India in the city, and because of the many business possibilities that exist in it and attract many immigrants.**

**Urban transportation**

**Urban transportation is carried out in the sub-urban railway system, in monorail and metro trains that began operation in 2014, in city buses, in regular (yellow) and blue-white (air-conditioned) taxis, in suburban ferries and ferries in the Gulf, A toll road built in stages at sea along the coast, and Marin-Drive are the city's fastest traffic arteries.**

**Disasters and terrorist attacks**

**On April 14, 1944, a fire broke out on an Allied cargo ship anchored in the port of Bombay, causing a large explosion of explosives and weapons. The explosion caused the death of at least 800 people and extensive destruction in the port and the surrounding city.**

**Since the 1990s, Mumbai has been the target of a number of terrorist attacks, some of them on a very large scale. In 1993, more than 250 people were killed in a series of car bombs in the city, apparently carried out by a criminal organization directed by Islamic terrorist groups based in Pakistan. In 2003, 19 civilians were killed in a train explosion in the city. In 2006, 209 people were killed in a series of explosions on the subway, carried out by an Islamist terrorist organization called Shakar-e-Taiba. The bombs were placed in pressure pots, which contributed to increasing their impact.**

**On November 26, 2008, the city began a combined terrorist attack in which hundreds of civilians, Indians and Westerners were killed and wounded. The attack included a combined attack by suicide bombers and terrorists armed with rifles that took over a number of locations, killed civilians and took hostages. The attack took place simultaneously in several places in the city, including the Chhatrapati Shivaji station, the Taj Mahal Hotel, the Oberoi Hotel and the Chabad House in the city, killing 173 civilians, including 5 Israelis, including a pair of Chabad emissaries in the city of Rabbi Gabi and Rivki Holtzberg. In addition, more than 300 people were injured.**

**tourist attractions**

* **Sanjay Gandhi National Park: Located near the city, it covers about a sixth of the city. In the park there is a population of animals and tigers in a small zoo.**
* **Three World Heritage Sites sponsored by UNESCO: Chhatrapati Shivaji Station, the Elephantine Caves and the Victorian Architecture and Art Deco buildings in Mumbai.**
* **Gateway of India - The magnificent colonial structure, 25 meters high, serves as a symbol of Mumbai. The gate was built near the port in the 1920s in honor of the arrival of the King of England to India. Next to the gate is the luxurious Taj Mahal Hotel.**
* **Elephanta Island - an island about nine kilometers north-east of the India Gate in the heart of the harbor and contains a series of cave-temples carved in the black basalt rock. The main temple is dedicated to El Shiva and has a six-meter statue of the three-faced return - the god of destruction, the Creator God and the Guardian God.**לאורך השביל המוביל למקדשים החצובים מדלגים קופים קטנים והאי עצמו מכוסה בצמחייה עשירה, ובה עצי מנגו ודקלים. ההפלגה לאי אורכת כשעה.
* **• Victoria Railway Station - a colonial building that looks like a palace built by an infinite architect - turrets and towers, animal reliefs, stained-glass windows and many other Gothic decorations.**
* **• Chaupati Beach - this is India in miniature, and Mumbai residents arrive en masse, especially in the evenings and on weekends, to travel with the family, get a haircut or shave, eat in the many street stalls, lick ice cream, ride ponies, get astrological advice Giant and enjoy a host of other activities.**
* **• The big laundry - a place where thousands of people wash their clothes. The huge complex consists of concrete cells with water channels flowing through them. The launderers dip the clothes and fabrics in the water, beat them again and again, wash and leave to dry in the sun. The best observation of this activity is from the bridge over the railway tracks at Mahalaxmi station**
* **Food: Mumbai is known for its excellent restaurants, and there are also quite a few western restaurants for those who need a McCurry timeout. One of the most successful is the Delhi Darbar which serves excellent tandoori dishes.**
* **Shopping: Mumbai has many shops and malls, the largest of which is the Phoenix Mall, which offers hundreds of clothing stores, toys and electronics.**
* **Markets:**
* **Antiquities market.**
* **The thieves' market (the name is apparently a distortion of the Hindi word meaning noise).**
* **The fish market, which operates in the early morning hours at the Sassoon pier in the port.**