INTRODUCTION
The Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's oldest, flourished during the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. and extended into northwestern India. 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. Years of nonviolent resistance to British rule eventually resulted in Indian independence in 1947.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Ram Nath KOVIND
Head of Government
Prime Minister Narendra MODI
Government Type
federal parliamentary republic
Capital
New Delhi
Legislature
bicameral Parliament or Sansad consists of the Council of States or Rajya Sabha (245 seats) and the House of the People or Lok Sabha (545 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
largest South Asian economy; still informal domestic economies; COVID-19 reversed both economic growth and poverty reduction; credit access weaknesses contributing to lower private consumption and inflation; new social and infrastructure equity efforts
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $8.443 trillion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $6,100 (2020 est.)
Industries - textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining, petroleum, machinery, software, pharmaceuticals
Agricultural products - sugarcane, rice, wheat, buffalo milk, milk, potatoes, vegetables, bananas, maize, mangoes/guavas
Exports $485 billion (2020 est.)
refined petroleum, diamonds, packaged medicines, jewelry, cars (2019)
partners: US 17%, UAE 9%, China 5% (2019)
Imports $493.2 billion (2020 est.)
crude petroleum, gold, coal, diamonds, natural gas (2019)
partners: China 15%, US 7%, UAE 6%, Saudi Arabia 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
1.3 billion (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.04% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)
Language
Hindi 43.6%, Bengali 8%, Marathi 6.9%, Telugu 6.7%, Tamil 5.7%, Gujarati 4.6%, Urdu 4.2%, Kannada 3.6%, Odia 3.1%, Malayalam 2.9%, Punjabi 2.7%, Assamese 1.3%, Maithili 1.1%, other 5.6% (2011 est.)
Religion
Hindu 79.8%, Muslim 14.2%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.7%, other and unspecified 2% (2011 est.)