



India Fast Facts

Population:

1,065,070,607 (July 2004 est.)

Capital:

New Delhi

Currency:

Indian rupee (INR)

Religion(s):

Hindu 81.3%, Muslim 12%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other groups including Buddhist, Jain, Parsi 2.5%

Language(s):

English enjoys associate status but is the most important language for national, political, commercial communication, and higher education; Hindi is the national language and primary tongue of 30% of the people; there are 14 other official languages.

Major Events:

Republic Day, January 26 (1950)
Independence Day, August 15 (1947)
Gandhi Jayanti, October 2 (Gandhi's birthday)

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Online Resources

Embassy of India, Washington D.C.:

<http://www.indianembassy.org/indiainfo/>

University Grants Commission:

<http://www.ugc.ac.in>

Iagora.com:

<http://www.iagora.com/istudy/index.html>

Lonely Planet:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

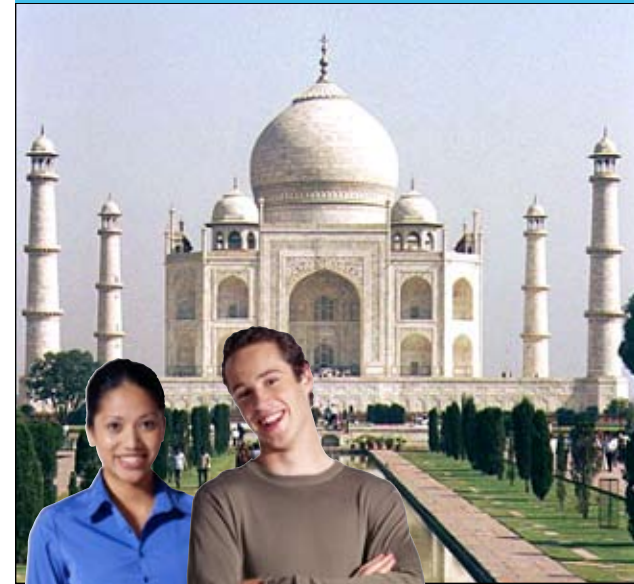
World InfoZone:

<http://www.worldinfozone.com>

CIA Factbook:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>

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www.ccisabroad.org/bangaloresemester.html



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India at a Glance...

Prepare for the culture shock and embrace the new experience!

India is one of the most distinct places on earth, and it can be overload for those not accustomed to the complex mix of cultural influences. However, students who return from this rich and varied country repeatedly say that it provides an unparalleled opportunity for quality education and immersion in a challenging new culture.

As with the rest of the country, the higher education system, under the policy making body of the University Grants Commission (UGC), is one of the world's largest and most diverse with over 320 universities and 16,000 colleges. Nearly 9.3 million students study at a variety of schools including conventional universities, specialty institutions, professional and generic colleges, managements institutions, and institutions that focus on medicine and engineering. Interestingly, most of India's universities and centers of higher learning and research are autonomous in function, which enables them to focus all their attention on academic excellence. Another interesting fact is that the medium of instruction for most of these institutions is English. While you may find a few universities teaching humanities, social sciences, or commerce in regional languages, sciences and technical subjects, as well as almost all postgraduate courses, will be taught in English.



University of Pune

By and large the universities primarily focus teaching at the postgraduate level and the undergraduate teaching is done in autonomous affiliated colleges outside the university campus.

Apart from the well known universities like Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, there are many other significant universities. The University of Madras, University of Pune and the Symbiosis International Education Center in Pune are just three of the schools that contribute to Pune's reputation for

being the city with the largest number of foreign students in the country. Other excellent universities include the University of Mumbai (formerly Bombay) with its large number of off-campus colleges, Bangalore University, University of Baroda, University of Hyderabad, Osmania University, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, in the state of Karnataka, and the University of Goa, just to name a few. As a result of the new initiative of the UGC, several universities are now planning to develop short-term Study Abroad Programs specially designed for foreign students.

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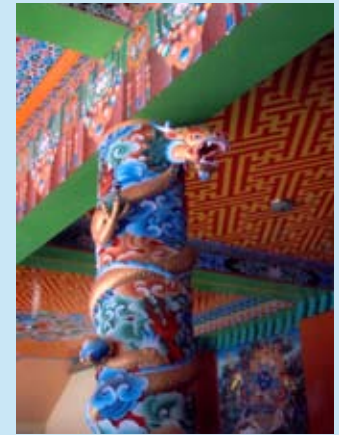
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India's economy encompasses everything from traditional village farming and handicrafts to modern agriculture and a wide range of modern high tech industries and support services. India has also ventured into a major Space Program using Satellite Technology for national development. At the same time it has several programs using science and technology for rural development activities with the help of a large number of NGO groups. Due to the many highly educated people in India who speak English, the country has become a major exporter of software services and workers. India has the world's third largest supply of technical and scientific manpower, which is being put to good use. Some other major industries include textiles, chemicals, steel, petroleum, and machinery. These diverse social, industrial, and technological activities, combined with the traditional art and culture offer excellent opportunities for foreign students to undertake field projects and internship assignments while studying in India.

Religion is another important aspect of India's culture. India was the birthplace of two of the world's significant religions, Buddhism and Hinduism. Today around 80%

of the population of India is Hindu. Muslims are the largest religious minority, but there are also a number of other religious groups including Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, Zoroastrians, and Jews. India's diversity of religious beliefs can be seen throughout the country in its holidays, architecture, arts, and more. India observes all the festivals of its major religions. Many of its most stunning buildings were influenced by religion such as the Hindu temples at Hoysala in Karnataka, and the Taj Mahal, which is India's largest mosque and demonstrates the influence of Islam. Indian dance was traditionally a part of religious ritual. Similarly, much of India's artistic heritage is rooted in Hindu and Buddhist murals, sculptures, carvings, and Islamic and Moghul decoration. However, today's culture is also vibrant and active. For instance, India leads the world in the output of films with more than 900 produced annually.



In 2004, India was one of many nations to be hit by the devastating earthquake and tsunami that affected many parts of Asia and east Africa. Our thoughts are with everyone who has been impacted. We urge students considering study in India currently to be aware of the potential repercussions of this situation and to stay informed when making program decisions.

And remember the most often repeated advice from returning students. "Keep an open mind!" A first visit to India will convince you that you will have to visit again to learn more. Many Indians claim that even after spending their entire life in India, they still cannot identify themselves with a single entity – that is the extent of the diversity that unites India today. The rewards are well worth the challenges, but you will need to remain open to reap the full benefits of India.