



Facts about India:

India is the second most populous country in the world. Over one billion people live on the subcontinent. About one third of India's population is under 30 years old and only about 24% of Indians live in cities.

India's economy is also one of the fastest growing in the world. Yet, the income per person remains low and 26% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Largest Cities:

NEW DELHI (capital) 21.72 million
 Mumbai 19.695 million
 Kolkata 15.294 million
 Chennai 7.416 million
 Bangalore 7.079 million (2009)

Languages:

English is the most important language for national communication. But Hindi is the most widely spoken language and primary tongue of 41% of the Indian people. There are 14 other official languages: Bengali (8.1%), Telugu (7.2%), Marathi (7%), Tamil (5.9%), Urdu (5%), Gujarati (4.5%), Malayalam (3.2%), Kannada (3.7%), Oriya (3.2%), Punjab (2.8%), Assamese (1.3%), Kashmiri, Sindhi, and Sanskrit. (2001 census)

FUN FACT!

Did you know that the denominations are written on the Indian currency bills (rupee) in all of the 15 languages? Go to www.monikaschroeder.com to see an image of a 10 rupee bill.

Religious Affiliation:

Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census)

Literacy rate:

61% people over age 15 can read and write

male: 73.4%

female: 47.8% (2001 census)

Thinking question:

Why do you think more men than women can read and write in India?

Sources:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>

<http://censusindia.gov.in/2011-common/CensusDataSummary.html>