

Languages - 2

More than 150 languages are spoken as the first (home) language. Most common:

Hindi	44%	Gujarati	5%
Bengali	8%	Urdu	4%
Marathi	7%	Kannada	4%
Telugu	7%	Odia	3%
Tamil	6%	Malayalam	3%

Religion:

Hindu	80%
Muslim	14%
Christian	2%
Sikh	2%
Other	2%.

Ongoing religious conflicts between Hindus and Muslims.

Age structure (2024):

Over age 65: 7%
(USA 19%, UK 19%, Japan 30%, China 14%).

Median Age (2024): 29.8
(USA 38.9, China 40.2).

Life expectancy at birth (2024): 68.2 (USA: 80.9).

Arranged marriages:

India: Over 90%.

% women married by age 18:

India: 23%.

USA: Under 1%.

Divorce rate: India 0.1 divorces per 1,000 people.
USA 2.5 per 1,000.

Literacy (over age 15 can read and write):

	USA	India
Total pop:	99%	74%.
Males	99%	85%.
Females	99%	66%.

India Political Subdivisions

28 States (elected leadership) and 8 Union Territories (small, leadership appointed by national government).



Independence from Britain

India: Aug 15, 1947.

India's national holiday is Jan 26 (1950): Adoption of India's constitution.

USA: July 4, 1776.

July 4 is also the US national holiday.

Flag of India

Adopted at independence in 1947.

“Wheel of life”.



State Ensign of India 1880-1947. British Raj.



Short History of India – 1

200 BC to 1100 AD: Somewhat a unified country. Included today's India, Pakistan, Bangladesh.

1100 AD to 1858: Split into over 500 princely kingdoms.

1500: Colonial Period, started by Vasco da Gamma, Portugal.

Short History of India – 2

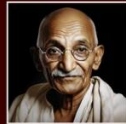
1700s: Britain and France took control of parts of India.

1858: British defeated other foreign powers and got control of all of India.

1858-1947: British Rule. Queen Victoria was first Empress of India.

Short History of India – 3

1947: Independence. Mahatma Gandhi led fight to split from UK.



After Independence in 1947: At first one country – India included ALL colors on this map:



Short History of India – 4

Original India included today's Pakistan and Bangladesh.

– India is mostly Hindu.

– Pakistan is mostly Muslim.

Also, Pakistan included 2 parts, 1100 miles apart separated by India:

– West Pakistan: Now Pakistan.

– East Pakistan: Now Bangladesh.

Short History of India – 5

1947-48: India-Pakistan War. Hindu v Muslim v Sikh. 500,000 died. Pakistan (West and East) became a separate country.

1971: East Pakistan seceded from Pakistan. Became a separate country: Bangladesh.

1975: Sikkim now Indian state.

Short History of India – 6



Short History of India – 7

Goa: Was part of Portugal, not India, until 1961. Small war. 1961: Goa now part of India.

Kashmir: Muslim territory bigger in size than Florida. Claimed (to this day) by both India and Pakistan. Control divided by UN partition.

Short History of India – 8

Aksai Chin: Three times the size of Connecticut.

East of Kashmir. 16,000 ft elev.

Uninhabitable. Few resources.

China says it's a "strategic buffer". Today administered by China, but claimed by India.

Periodic small wars. 2020 – 20 died. 2021 – 4 died.

Short History of India - 9

Arunchal Pradesh

About the size of South Carolina.

Pop. 1,300,000.

Currently a state of India. But claimed in entirety by China as "South Tibet". China sent troops 1962. Withdrew.



Indian Government: Federal Parliamentary Republic.

Federal: Made up of states that have some political power.

Parliamentary: Executive power vested in a cabinet composed of members of the legislature (PM and Ministers) responsible to legislature.

As opposed to a directly elected chief executive (as in USA).

Head of State:

- President.
- Elected by combined houses of Parliament. 5 year term.
- Appoints 71 Ministers (heads of government departments).

Head of Government:

- Prime Minister.
- Elected by Council of Ministers.

Prime Minister: Narendra Modi (since 2014). His party is BJP.



BJP and its predecessor since 1951 BJS espouse Hindu Nationalism, angering Sikhs, Muslims, etc.

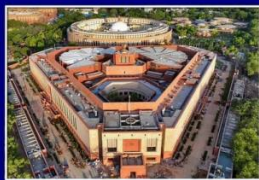
Parliament: Bicameral.

Council of States

233 members appointed by state legislatures.
+ 12 appointed by president.

House of the People

543 members elected by citizens.
+ 2 appointed.



Government - A Few More Facts Citizenship

- By birth: No.
- By descent only. At least one parent is Indian citizen.
- Dual citizenship not recognized.

Supreme Court: 28 judges including chief justice.

National political parties: 16.

Currency: Rupee

Exchange Rate Rupees per US \$:

2024 Nov: 84.4	2021: 73.9
2023: 82.6	2020: 74.1
2022: 78.6	2019: 70.4

₹
Symbol



Economy:

Real GDP (2023, PPP):

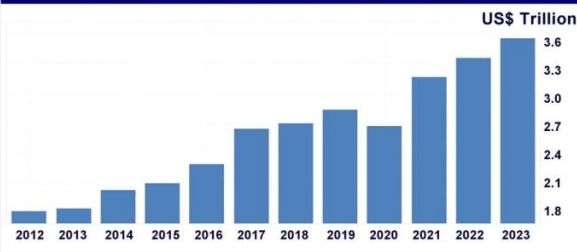
\$13.1 trillion.
#3 after USA and China.

Nominal GDP at official exchange rate (2023):

\$3.6 trillion. #5 after US CN DE JP.

Real GDP Per Capita (2023, PPP): \$9,200.

GDP measures a country's expenditures for all final goods and services produced in a period of time. India's rapid GDP growth:



Top 10 agricultural products 2022: Sugarcane, rice, milk, wheat, bison milk, potatoes, vegetables, bananas, maize, onions.

Notice: Neither beef nor pork.

Top 10 industrial products 2022: Textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining, petroleum, machinery, software, medicines (11 due to tie).

Exports: \$773 billion (2023).

Export Partners: US 18%, UAE 7%, Netherlands 4%, China 3%, Bangladesh 3%.

Imports: \$859 billion (2023).

Import partners: China 15%, UAE 7%, US 7%, Saudi Arabia 6%, Russia 6%.

Military Expenditures:

India: 2.3% of GDP (2023 est.)

USA: 3.4% (2024).

Public debt:

India: 46.6% of GDP.

USA: 110% (98% if gov't debt to itself is excluded).

Japan: 216%.

Indian Numbering System

International	Indian
1 Thousand	1 Thousand (written 1,000)
100,000	1 Lakh (written 1,00,000)
1 Million	10 Lakhs (written 10,00,000)
10 Million	1 Crore (written 1,00,00,000)
100 Million	10 Crores (written 10,00,00,000)

Indian system widely used in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Travel to India

– US citizens must get visa in advance.

– Get online eVisa. 30 days \$73.

Vaccinations

CDC and WHO recommend for India:

Hepatitis A & B, typhoid, cholera, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps & rubella, tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis, chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, influenza, COVID-19.

42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

– 34 cultural.

– You've probably heard of Taj Mahal, Red Fort, and Jaipur.

– Maybe not the others.

– 7 natural.

– 1 mixed.



Our Visit to Southern India

PART 1

Chennai (Madras)

Mamalapuram

Puducherry (Pondicherry)

Thanjavur (Tanjore)

PART 2

Madurai (Madura)

Periyar Tiger Reserve

Kerala

Cardamom County

Kochi

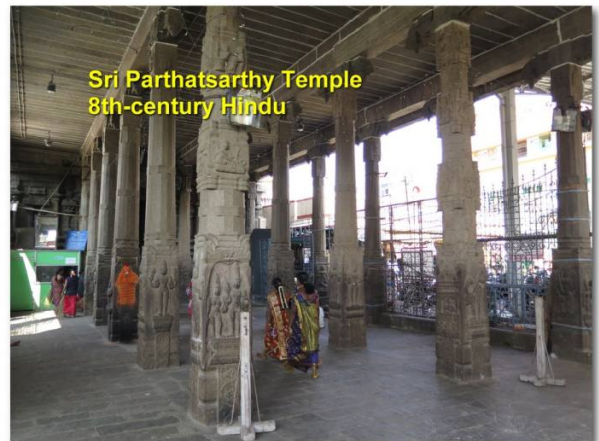
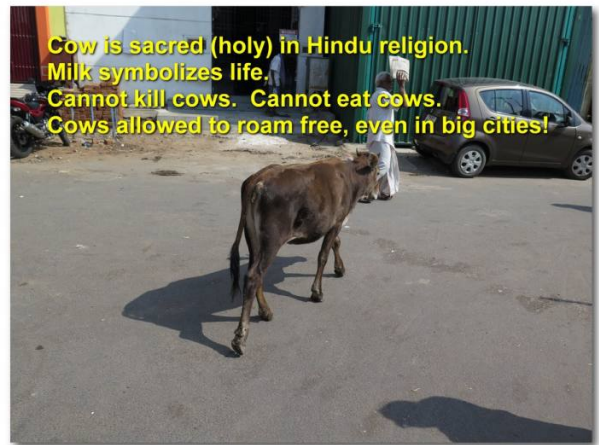
Ramanagara

Mysuru (Mysore)

Goa

Mumbai (Bombay)









Notice all the women are wearing saris

Tuk-tuk (taxi)



Luz Church - Catholic
Built by Portuguese in 1516



Luz Church - Chennai
1516

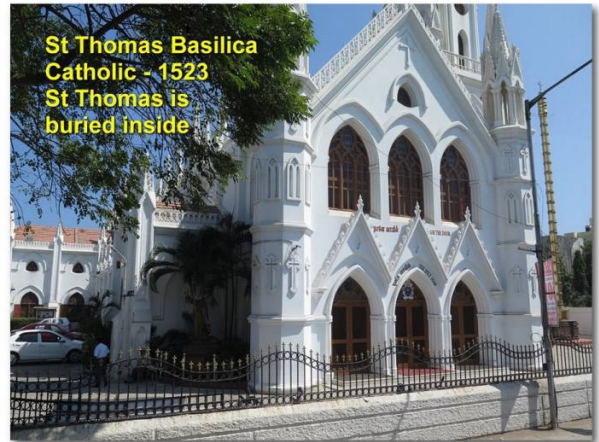


Notice Hindi writing

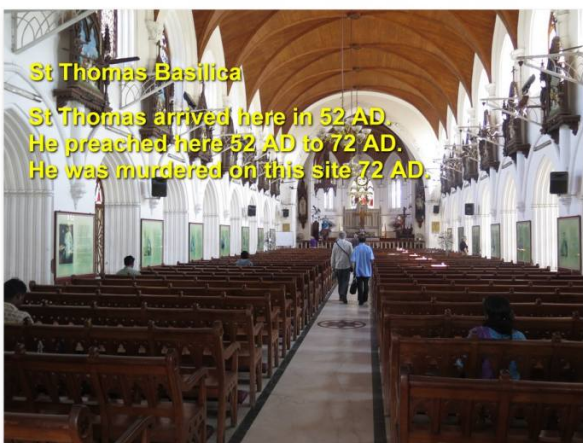
Chennai Metro
(subway system)
New -- just opened in 2015



New Chennai Metro



St Thomas Basilica
Catholic - 1523
St Thomas is
buried inside

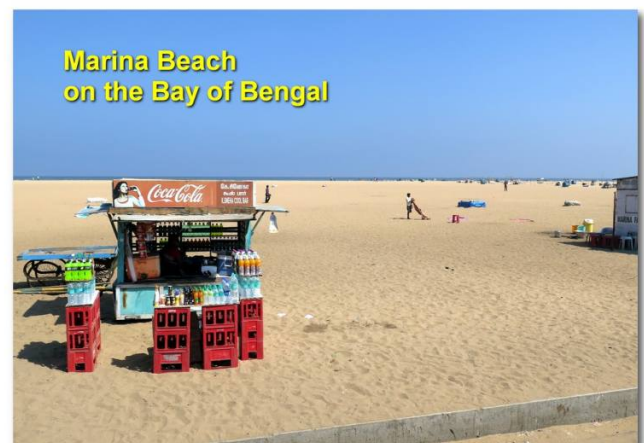


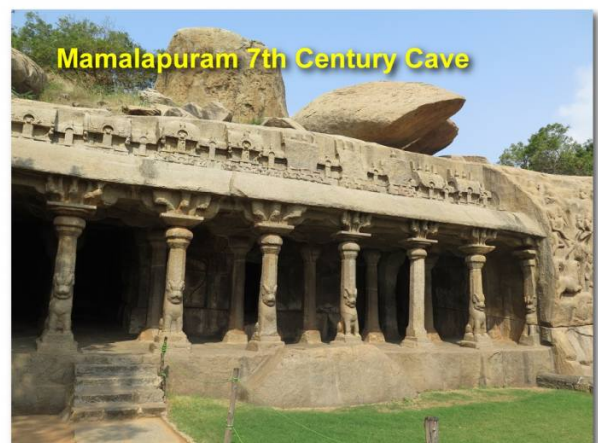
St Thomas Basilica

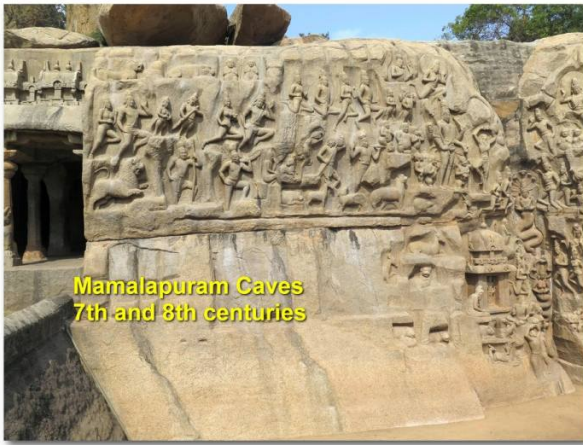
St Thomas arrived here in 52 AD.
He preached here 52 AD to 72 AD.
He was murdered on this site 72 AD.



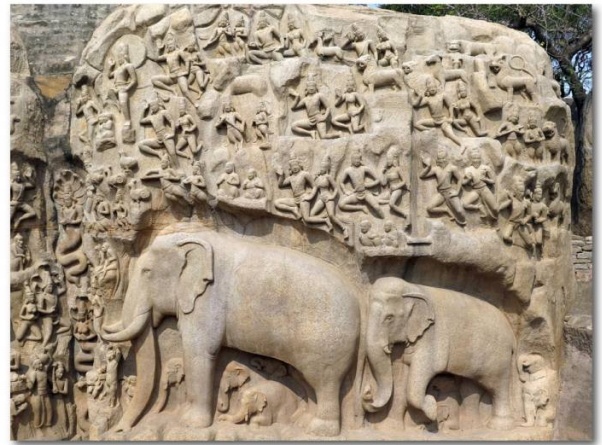
Typical street in Chennai
Tiffin (or tiffen) is a light
Indian breakfast or a light tea-
time meal at about 3 p.m.







Mamalapuram Caves
7th and 8th centuries



Ramanuja Temple
at Mamalapuram
8th century



Fruit snack vendor
at Mamalapuram



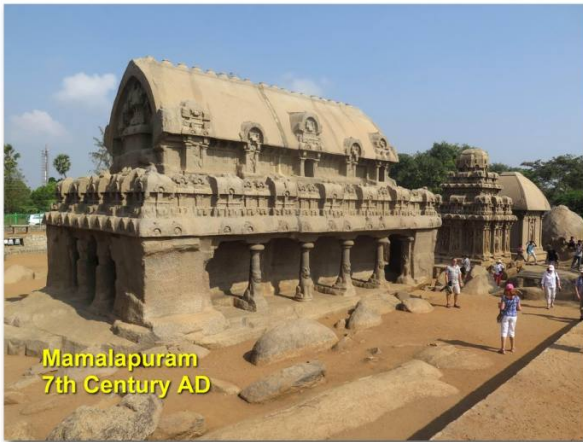
Snacks vendor



Mamalapuram
Small temple



Rhesus macaque
monkey at
Mamalapuram



Mamalapuram
7th Century AD



Mamalapuram
7th Century AD



Mamalapuram
7th Century AD



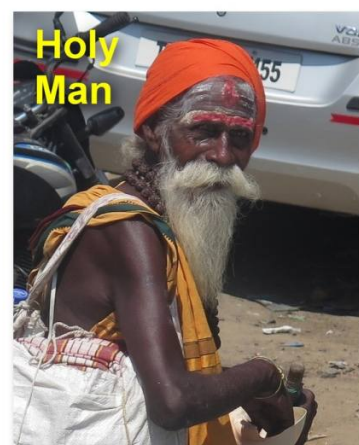
The "Butterball"
Mamalapuram
Students



Many students on field trips to Mamalapuram







Making SALT by letting salt water evaporate in the hot sun



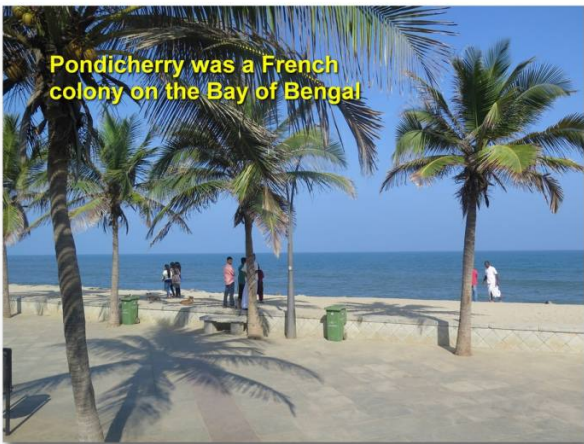
After the water has evaporated



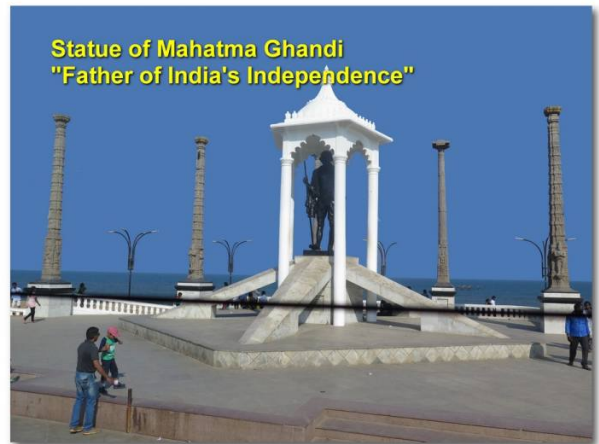
Salt



Pondicherry was a French colony on the Bay of Bengal



**Statue of Mahatma Ghandi
"Father of India's Independence"**

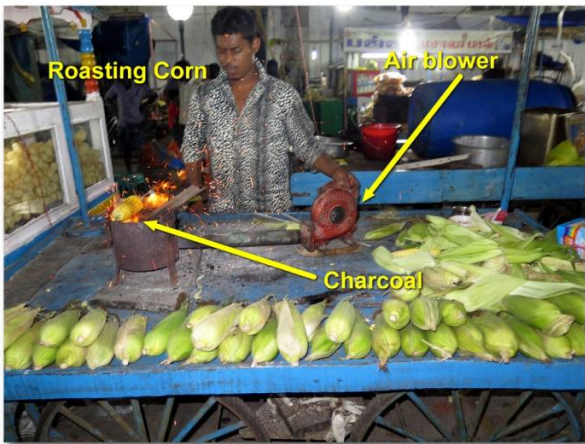


**Pondicherry
Governor's Mansion**



Pondicherry Market







Samosas



In a tuk-tuk



Ox Cart

Colored horns identify the political party of the owner.



Banana Market



A purchase



Making rope from fibers from coconut husks



Coconut fiber known as "coir"



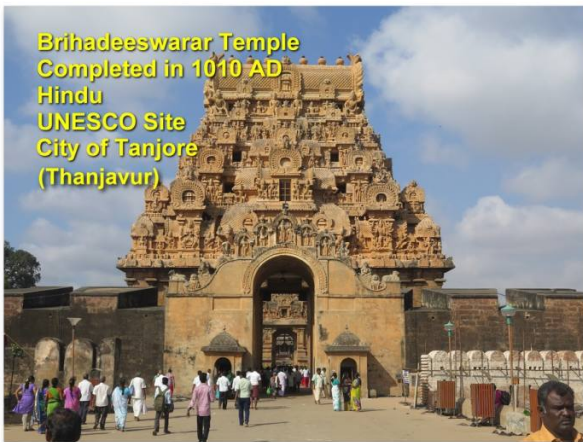




Sugar cane



Sugar cane to be transported to the refinery to make sugar



Brihadeeswarar Temple
Completed in 1010 AD
Hindu
UNESCO Site
City of Tanjore
(Thanjavur)



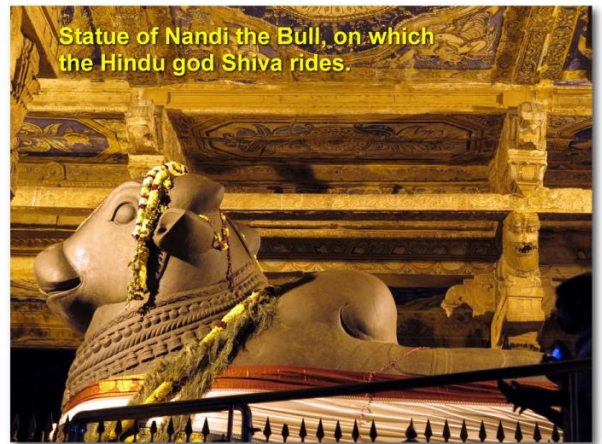
Brihadeeswarar
Temple
1010 AD



Brihadeeswarar
Temple 1010 AD



Brihadisvara
Temple 1010 AD
In Thanjavur
(aka Tanjore)





Students I Met at
Brihadisvara Temple



Terrible sidewalks in Tanjore!



Horrible Sidewalks



After seeing those sidewalks
I decided to take a tuk-tuk
back to the hotel.

School "Bus"



Thanjavur Royal
Palace 1535



Students at Royal Palace, Thanjavur



Students at Royal Palace, Thanjavur

