

Cornerstone - Global Ministries

One Nation at a Time - INDIA


The Country

Aryan tribes from the northwest infiltrated onto 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. Arab incursions starting in the 8th century and Turkic in the 12th were followed by those of European traders, beginning in the late 15th century. By the 19th century, Britain had assumed political control of virtually all Indian lands. Indian armed forces in the British army played a vital role in both World Wars. Nonviolent resistance to British colonialism led by Mohandas GANDHI and Jawaharlal NEHRU brought independence in 1947. The subcontinent was divided into the secular state of India and the smaller Muslim state of Pakistan. A third war between the two countries in 1971 resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. India's nuclear weapons testing in 1998 caused Pakistan to conduct its own tests that same year. Despite impressive gains in economic investment and output, India faces pressing problems such as significant overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and widespread corruption. *

Facts and Figures

Capital City: New Dehli

Population: 1,166,079,217 (July 2009 est.)

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

Language: Hindi 41%, Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2%, Marathi 7%, Tamil 5.9%, Urdu 5%, Gujarati 4.5%, Kannada 3.7%, Malayalam 3.2%, Oriya 3.2%, Punjabi 2.8%, Assamese 1.3%, Maithili 1.2%, other 5.9%*

The Church

India has the greatest number of unreached people in the world. An overwhelming number have no Christians, churches or Christian workers. Pray that the church worldwide would rise to the challenge that India presents. *

Our Prayer

- Pray that Christians would embrace continued freedom to proclaim the Gospel in India despite intimidation and persecution.
- Hinduism is the world's third largest religious system, encompassing an entire culture of religious beliefs, rituals, and philosophies. Pray that barriers imposed by the caste system and worldwide acceptance of Hinduism would be overcome as Indians find true satisfaction only in true spirituality – saving faith in Christ.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would bring unity, strength, wisdom and courage to the church in India. Praise God that the church has experienced significant growth, and pray that necessary leaders would be raised up and prepared to develop culturally sensitive and relevant congregations, committed to evangelism.

Our Partnerships

- Please pray for a couple in Northern India whose vision is *“to glorify God by establishing indigenous churches primarily within least-reached forward caste Hindu communities.”* Pray the Father draws Hindus from the forward castes to worship Him in Spirit and truth using the language and beauty found in Indian culture.
- **Pray** that they live out and boldly proclaim the story of Jesus as Lord and Redeemer of all. **Pray** that God the Father would draw a family of Forward Caste Hindus to Himself. **Pray** that they are ready at all times with clear, thoughtful Hindi stories about Jesus. **Pray** for more teammates to join them in their work. **Pray** for good health especially in the hot and humid weather.



Grace and peace to you in our Lord! In order to facilitate a global perspective amongst the staff and communities, we have put together a template to encourage the body to pray for a specific country and partnership each week.

Pray for All People:

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

--1 Timothy.2:1-4

“...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

--James.5:16b

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at 805.581.9532 or e-mail:

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*Some statistics and information were gathered from the Operation World Prayer Calendar and CIA World Factbook.