

India - Our Country

India is a large and beautiful country located in South Asia. It is known for its rich history, diverse cultures, and amazing natural beauty. India is home to many different languages, traditions, and peoples, making it a unique and colorful land.

Where is India?

India is located on the continent of Asia. It is surrounded by the Himalayan mountains in the north and bordered by oceans and seas on three sides — the Arabian Sea to the west, the Bay of Bengal to the east, and the Indian Ocean to the south. India shares its borders with countries like Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

Did You Know? India is the seventh largest country in the world by area and the second most populated country after China!

Capital and Important Cities

The capital city of India is **New Delhi**. It is the center of government and many important activities. Other big cities in India include *Mumbai*, *Kolkata*, *Chennai*, and *Bengaluru*. These cities are important for trade, culture, and education.

Languages and Culture

India is a country with great diversity. There are more than **20 official languages** and hundreds of dialects spoken across the country. Hindi and English are two official languages used for communication between people from different states.

The culture of India includes many festivals, dances, music, and food that vary from region to region. Festivals like *Diwali*, *Holi*, and *Christmas* are celebrated with joy and enthusiasm all over the country.

National Symbols

Every country has special symbols that represent it. India's national symbols help us feel proud of our nation. Here are some important ones:

- **National Flag:** The Tricolor (Tiranga) with saffron, white, and green bands and a blue Ashoka Chakra in the center.
- **National Bird:** Peacock
- **National Animal:** Bengal Tiger
- **National Flower:** Lotus
- **National Anthem:** "Jana Gana Mana" written by Rabindranath Tagore.

Exercise: Can you draw the Indian flag and color it correctly? Try to write a few lines about what each color means!

India's Nature and Environment

India is full of natural beauty! There are high mountains, wide rivers, dense forests, and vast deserts. Many wild animals and birds live here. India also has many national parks and wildlife sanctuaries to protect this nature.

It is important for us to take care of our environment by planting trees, saving water, and keeping our surroundings clean. We all have the responsibility to protect our country's nature for future generations.

Let's Remember

- India is a diverse and beautiful country in Asia.
 - New Delhi is the capital of India.
 - India has many languages, cultures, and festivals.
 - The national flag, peacock, tiger, and lotus are important symbols of India.
 - We must protect India's nature and environment.
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“Let us love and respect our country, India, and work together for its bright future!”