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This Guide

Working abroad sounds to many people like an adventure.

However, without thorough preparation, starting with a successful application, it is bound to fail. Therefore, Expertise in Labour Mobility (ELM) has prepared a set of country guides describing the main routes to employment in over 40 countries. Are you interested in working in Australia, Italy or Japan? Has your partner accepted a job in Hungary, the United States of America, or the United Arab Emirates?

Are you looking for an internship possibility in Spain, Singapore or Switzerland? The Looking for work in... guides from ELM will help you with accurate information and practical tips on working cultures and differences in job hunting in over 40 countries.

As an extra addition to the series – following many requests - ELM introduced a new guide: Looking for work in International Organisations which explains how to successfully look for work in for instance the institutes of the European Commission, UN institutions and NGO's.

This guide contains information on India. It tells you how to apply for a job in India and the cultural differences that you will come across when looking for a job in India. Do not underestimate those national differences. What is common in one country might be very unusual in another country. Despite globalisation, to find a job abroad you need to be aware that national differences manifest themselves not only in different languages, but also in different recruitment practices.

Thus, looking for work in another country involves more than writing your CV/resume in another language.

No matter the country in which you are looking for work, the key focus of your CV should be to persuade the employer to invite you for a job interview. Accordingly, your CV should be regarded as a marketing tool, adapted to the market in which you intend to use it. The information in this guide, together with the sample CV, will help you to adapt your application for the Indian job market. However, make sure your application remains a reflection of your personality. Working abroad is one thing, but having a job that does not suit you will definitely cause homesickness!

“The discovery of India may take a short while, but will last a lifetime.”
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nannette Ripmeester', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Nannette Ripmeester, MA
Managing Director
Expertise in Labour Mobility





Country Profile

India is the 7th largest country in size, with a total landmass of 3,287,590 square kilometres (2,042,814 square mi). Located in South Asia, it has land boundaries with Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal and Bhutan. The coastline of 7,000 kilometre stretches across the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean. The climate in this large country varies from tropical to temperate.

The world's largest democracy and second most populous country, after China, has emerged as a major power after a period of foreign rule and several decades during which its economy was virtually closed. A nuclear weapons state, it carried out tests in 1998 in defiance of world opinion. However, technological progress aside, India is still tackling huge social, economic and environmental problems.

Republic of India Data Profile

| | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| People | | | |
| Population, total | 1.0 billion | 1.1 billion | 1.1 billion |
| Population growth (annual %) | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population) | 28.6 | .. | .. |
| Life expectancy at birth, total (years) | 62.9 | 63.5 | .. |
| Fertility rate, total (births per woman) | 3.1 | 2.8 | .. |
| Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births) | 68.0 | 56.0 | .. |
| Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000) | 94.0 | 74.0 | .. |
| Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total) | 42.5 | .. | .. |
| Malnutrition prevalence, weight for age (% of children under 5) | .. | .. | .. |
| Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months) | 56.0 | 58.0 | .. |
| Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49) | .. | 0.9 | .. |
| Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group) | 75.4 | 89.8 | .. |
| School enrolment, primary (% gross) | 98.8 | 119.2 | .. |
| School enrolment, secondary (% gross) | 47.9 | 56.6 | .. |
| School enrolment, tertiary (% gross) | 10.2 | 11.4 | .. |
| Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education (%) | 77.5 | 88.7 | .. |
| Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above) | .. | .. | .. |
| Environment | | | |
| Surface area (sq. km) | 3.3 million | 3.3 million | 3.3 million |
| Forest area (sq. km) | 675.5 thousand | 677.0 thousand | .. |
| Agricultural land (% of land area) | 60.8 | 60.6 | .. |
| CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita) | 1.1 | .. | .. |
| Improved water source (% of population with access) | 82.0 | .. | .. |
| Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access) | 55.0 | .. | .. |
| Energy use (kg of oil equivalent per capita) | 504.0 | .. | .. |
| Energy imports, net (% of energy use) | 18.6 | .. | .. |
| Electric power consumption (kWh per capita) | 402.0 | .. | .. |

| Economy | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| GNI, Atlas method (current US\$) | 456.8 billion | 804.1 billion | 906.5 billion |
| GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$) | 450.0 | 730.0 | 820.0 |
| GDP (current US\$) | 460.2 billion | 805.7 billion | 906.3 billion |
| GDP growth (annual %) | 4.0 | 9.2 | 9.2 |
| Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %) | 3.5 | 4.4 | 5.3 |
| Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) | 23.4 | 18.3 | 17.5 |
| Industry, value added (% of GDP) | 26.2 | 27.3 | 27.7 |
| Services, etc., value added (% of GDP) | 50.5 | 54.4 | 54.7 |
| Exports of goods and services (% of GDP) | 13.2 | 20.3 | .. |
| Imports of goods and services (% of GDP) | 14.2 | 23.3 | .. |
| Gross capital formation (% of GDP) | 24.8 | 33.4 | .. |
| Revenue, excluding grants (% of GDP) | 11.9 | .. | .. |
| Cash surplus/deficit (% of GDP) | -3.9 | .. | .. |
| States and markets | | | |
| Time required to start a business (days) | .. | 71.0 | 35.0 |
| Market capitalization of listed companies (% of GDP) | 32.2 | 68.6 | 90.4 |
| Military expenditure (% of GDP) | 3.1 | 2.9 | .. |
| Fixed line and mobile phone subscribers (per 1,000 people) | 35.4 | 127.7 | .. |
| Internet users (per 1,000 people) | 5.4 | 54.8 | .. |
| Roads, paved (% of total roads) | 47.5 | .. | .. |
| High-technology exports (% of manufactured exports) | 5.0 | .. | .. |
| Global links | | | |
| Merchandise trade (% of GDP) | 20.4 | 29.6 | 32.5 |
| Net barter terms of trade (2000 = 100) | 100.0 | 87.5 | .. |
| Foreign direct investment, net inflows (BoP, current US\$) | 3.6 billion | 6.6 billion | .. |
| Long-term debt (DOD, current US\$) | 95.6 billion | 114.3 billion | .. |
| Present value of debt (% of GNI) | .. | 15.9 | .. |
| Total debt service (% of exports of goods, services and income) | 14.5 | .. | .. |
| Official development assistance and official aid (current US\$) | 1.5 billion | 1.7 billion | .. |
| Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (US\$) | 12.9 billion | 21.3 billion | 25.7 billion |

Source: World Development Indicators database, April 2007

Population

The 2009 estimate of India's total population was 1,166,079,217. According to the 2001 Indian census, a 21.3 percent increase from 1991 and nearly 2 percent average growth rate from 1975 to 2001. India has nearly 17.5 percent of the world's population, second only to China. About 72 percent of the population resided in rural areas in 2001, yet the country has a population density of 324 persons per square kilometre. Major states have more than 400 persons per square kilometre, but population densities are around 150 persons or fewer per square kilometre in some border states and insular territories.

In 2001 India's birthrate was 25.4 per 1,000 population, its death rate was 8.4 per 1,000, and its infant mortality rate was 66 per 1,000 live births. In 1995 to 1997, India's total fertility rate was 3.4 children per woman (4.5 in 1980–82). According to the 2001 Indian census, 35.3 percent of the population was under 14 years of age, 59.9 percent between 15 and 64, and 4.8 percent 65 and older (the 2004 estimates are, respectively, 31.7 percent, 63.5 percent, and 4.8 percent); the sex ratio was 933 females per 1,000 males. In 2004 India's median age was estimated to be 24.4. From 1992 to 1996, overall life expectancy at birth was 60.7 years (60.1 years for males and 61.4 years for females) and was estimated to be 64 years in 2004 (63.3 for males and 64.8 for females).

Languages

The total number of languages and dialects varies by source and counting method, and many Indians speak more than one language. The Indian census lists 114 languages (22 of which are spoken by one million or more persons) that are further categorized into 216 dialects or "mother tongues" spoken by 10,000 or more speakers. An estimated 850 languages are in daily use, and the Indian Government claims there are more than 1,600 dialects.

Hindi is the official language and the most commonly spoken, but not all dialects are mutually comprehensible. English has official status and is widely used in business, politics and by a growing section of the urban middle class. Knowledge of English varies widely from fluency to knowledge of just a few words. The teaching of Hindi and English is compulsory in most states and union territories. Twenty-two languages are legally recognized by the constitution for various political, educational, and other purposes. The most commonly spoken languages are Hindi (40.2 percent of the population), Bengali (8.3 percent), Telugu (7.9 percent), Marathi (7.5 percent), and Tamil (6.3 percent).

History

"The roots of the present lay in the past and so I made the voyages of discovery with the past ever seeking a clue in it if any such existed to the understanding of the present."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru