**External migration from India**

**Indians abroad**

There is a huge Indian diaspora across the world, estimated at around 30 million.

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| **Regions with significant Indian populations** |
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http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d4/Flag_of_Israel.svg/22px-Flag_of_Israel.svg.png[Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) | 62,000 | |

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-resident_Indian_and_Person_of_Indian_Origin>

**History of Indian migration**

The most significant historical emigration from India was that of the **Roma**. Around the 10th century A.D, Muslim invaders tore through what is modern-day Afghanistan, destroying ancient Hindu and Buddhist communities. The **Hindu Kush** is where thousands of Indians were wholesale slaughtered. The remnants of the Indian community left for Europe, where they were ridiculed and persecuted as the **Gypsies**. They adopted local religions such as Christianity and Islam, but combined some of their Hindu practices with the new faiths. They also speak a distinct Indo-Aryan language of their own, **Romany**. Another major emigration from the subcontinent was to South East Asia. It started as a military expedition by Hindu, and later Buddhist, kings of South India and resulted in the settlers' merging with the local society. The influence of Indian culture is still strongly felt in South East Asia, especially in places like **Bali** (in Indonesia).

During the nineteenth century and until the end of the Raj, much of the migration that happened was of a forced nature - export of slave labor to other colonies under the **indenture system**. The major destinations, in chronological order, were Mauritius, British Guyana, the West Indies (Trinidad and Jamaica), Fiji and East Africa. There was also a small amount of free emigration of skilled laborers and professionals to some of these countries in the twentieth century. The event that triggered this diaspora was the **Slavery Abolition Act** passed by the British Parliament on August 1, **1834**, which freed the slave labour force throughout the British colonies. This left many of the plantations devoid of adequate work force as the newly freed slaves left to take advantage of their newly found freedom. This resulted in an extreme shortage of labour throughout many of the British colonies which was resolved by massive importation of workers engaged under contracts of indentured servitude.

An unrelated system involved recruitment of workers for the tea plantations of the neighboring British colonies of Sri Lanka and Burma and the rubber plantations of British Malaya (now Malaysia and Singapore).

During the **Partition of India (1947)**, about 7 million Muslims shifted to Pakistan, 10 million Hindus and Sikhs went to India, and anywhere from 500,000 to 1 million people died in riots and religious strife. A similar migration took place on the East side of India in the Bengal region between East Pakistan (since 1971 the nation of Bangladesh) and the Indian state of West Bengal. Government policy, has refused to recognize Pakistanis and Bangladeshis as, officially, Persons of Indian Origin.

After **independence** in **1947**, the pattern of emigration naturally changed. At first Indians sought better fortune mainly in the United Kingdom, but later North America, especially the USA (with 1.7 million Indians in total), became the favored destination after change in Indian emigration law that made this possible. Some displaced persons of Indian origin in Africa (especially under Idi Amin in Uganda) and the Caribbean also reached the UK. Smaller numbers of Indians have also emigrated to the English-speaking countries like Australia and New Zealand.

After the 1970s oil boom in the Middle East, a large number of Indians emigrated to the Gulf countries. However, this was on a contractual basis rather than permanent as in the other cases.

In recent years, other countries such as Malaysia have also emerged as destinations for Indian workers. The Indian government aims to expand such overseas employment both in order to relieve domestic unemployment and augment remittances. (A **remittance** is a [transfer of money](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wire_transfer) by a [foreign worker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Migrant_worker) to his or her home country.)  
  
With its well-educated and language proficient workforce, India is also a major source country for highly skilled migrant workers. The government is keen to expand this further and is looking to the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) as one of the ways to achieve this.   
  
In 2005 the Government created a new Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), to take responsibility for diaspora and international labour migration issues. Other migration issues of importance in India are irregular migration and trafficking, and internal inter-state migration.

**Activity:** Using the above information construct a timeline.

In Monsoon Asia there are two main types of migration:

1. **Forced migrations:** when people are forced from their homes by natural disasters, government policies or war.
2. **Voluntary migrations**, when people chose to move, usually for economic reasons.

**Forced out by nature:**

The boxing day Tsunami (2004) devastated coastal lowlands in Thailand, western Sumatra, south India and Sri Lanka and made survivors flee for their lives.

**Floods**

Many fertile, densely populated river plains and deltas experience occasional severe flooding. The worst affected areas have been Bangladesh, which lies across the Ganges River delta, and China’s Yangtze River valley. In 2011 thousands had to move to safe areas after widespread flooding in Pakistan.

**Volcanoes**

Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan lie close to the boundaries of several crustal plates, in a zone called the Pacific Ring of Fire so experience frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. When Mount Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991 and 1992, hundreds of thousands of people were forced from their homes.

**Earthquakes**

Earthquakes are frequent along the Ring of Fire and in Monsoon Asia’s inland mountain ranges. For example, in 1995 an earthquake struck the Japanese city of Kobe. Another earthquake devastated parts of Pakistan in 2005.

**Forced out by war**

Many parts of Monsoon Asia have experienced wars and political unrest in recent decades. Since WW2 there has been fighting in the following regions:

* The India subcontinent, leading to the formation of Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan (in 1947) and Bangladesh (in 1971). Border disputes continue.
* Korea and Vietnam between 1950 and 1975 as the USA and its allies tried to stop the spread of communism.
* Cambodia, Afghanistan and Myanmar, where there has been fighting within each country in recent years. Afghanistan is not in Monsoon Asia but Afghani refugees have fled to Pakistan and India.

**Obstacles to refugee movements**

When people are desperate enough, they ignore obstacles like warring armies, landmines and difficult terrain and run to safety. They avoid towns, highways and densely populate areas and take their chances in dense jungles, remote mountains, deserts or open oceans. Most refugees are women and children who are poorly equipped for these harsh conditions. Many die en route of disease, starvation or exposure.

**Refugee destination areas**

War refugees end up in places like the Ef Htu Htu displaced persons camp in Myanmur, or refugee camps in neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Thailand or Bangladesh. Most lack money, official papers or the means to support themselves and so they hope that the host country is generous. They may return when conditions are safe, but many stay or are resettled in other parts of the world.

Pakistan is one of the largest refugee destination areas in Monsoon Asia, receiving millions of refugees from Afghanistan since WW2. The long mountainous borders are difficult to police, and these neighbours share the same Muslim religion and culture. When things calm down in Afghanistan, some refugees go home, but trouble erupts again, they return to Pakistan.

**Problems in refugee countries**

Host nations like Thailand, Bangladesh and Pakistan carry most of the costs of looking after refugees (although most cannot afford to do so). The international community helps through agencies such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Red Cross, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development (Caritas) and the Council of Organisations for Relief Service Overseas (CORSO. A large refugee population can cause many problems:

* They must be provided with costly shelter, food, medical aid, water and other facilities, often for decades.
* Children need to be educated.
* If refugees look for work, there may be trouble with local-job seekers. If they produce goods to sell, tey compete with local suppliers.
* Sometimes political turmoil in the source country spills over into the host country. For example, Muslim extremists among Afghani refugees have stirred up trouble in Pakistan’s more moderate Muslim communities in recent decades.

Refugees have few rights and often face discrimination and prejudice. Pakistan will not give Pakistani citizenship to Afghani refugees (or their children) hoping this will force them to leave. Some of the thousands of Myanmur refugees working illegally in Thailand during the 2004 tsunami loat everything but dared not to register for aid in case they were deported.

**Resettlement**

Refugees are encouraged to return home when they can, but can never do this safely. A small number (about 1%) are sent to safe countries like New Zealand, but large numbers remain in their host countries. For example, in 2005 Pakistan persuaded 2.5 million Afghan refugees to return to Afghanistan, but another2.5 million remained. Some had been there for decades. More than 2 million Myanmar refugees have resettled permanently in Thailand.

**Voluntary migration in Monsoon Asia**

Most migration in Monsoon Asia is linked to wealth. People move voluntarily to places where they think they will be better off, and these may be within one country (internal migration) or between countries countries (external migration). There are two migration patterns that are related to stages of economic development.

1. Japan, Singapore and South Korea are wealthy and urbanized. Internal migration is mainly within and between cities. Immigration is encouraged to fill labour shortages.
2. Other countries in Monsoon Asia are poorer and less developed. Economic growth may be rapid (8% per annum in India in 2011) but this is concentrated in the largest cities and not in rural areas where most people live.

The main reason for voluntary migration is economic. People move to find work that suits them. There are two types of labour migrants, those with skills to sell, and those without.

**Skilled workers**

Small numbers of highly skilled foreign workers are attracted to wealthy countries like Japan, Singapore and South Korea by high wages, good working conditions and opportunities to expand business interests. Host countries gain workers without the costs of educating and training them, while source countries like India suffer ‘brain drain’. India’s universities produce well-educated, skilled English speaking people who can earn a lot more overseas than in India. Skilled workers can also move within and between cities within their country.

**Unskilled workers.**

Most Asian labour migrants are unskilled people. They move from rural to urban areas within their own countries to wealthy ones. In the destination areas they take low paid lobs that local people do not want. Examples include young Philippino women who work in Japan or Singapore as maids, young Indian women who take domestic service jobs in the Middle East, and poorly educated people from rural China who move to factories in China’s industrial cities.

Migration source countries and regions benefit from the exodus. Unemployment rates ease while remittances (money sent home by workers) help boost family incomes. If migrants return, they may bring back capital and new skills.

**Female migration**

Increasing numbers of women have joined Monsoon Asian migration streams in recent years. Most is voluntary but some is forced. Desperate, poverty-stricken rural families may accept money for their daughters, believing they will have a better future elsewhere. Unhappily, many end up in sweatshops or brothels. Some women offer themselves for sale and others are kidnapped. Because many Asian countries have more men than women, there is a big demand for brides.

**Causes and Trends in External Migration in India**

* Academically and technically qualified experts emigrating to industrialized countries (Nearly 1.25 million Indians emigrated to the US, Canada, UK and Australia between 1950 and 2000)
* Unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labourers migrating to Middle East countries for undertaking blue collar jobs. (More than 3 million Indian migrants live in Gulf countries, with most of them coming from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab).
* Students migrating to USA, UK, Australia and other European countries to pursue higher education

**Population change in India**

**Key Statistics:**

**Population growth rate**

1.344% (2011 est.)

**Birth rate**

20.97 births/1,000 population (2011 est.)

**Death rate**

7.48 deaths/1,000 population (July 2011 est.)

**Net migration rate**

-0.05 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2011 est.)

Source: CIA World Factbook

**History of Population Change in India**

India began the 20th century with a population of about 238 million and ended it with 1 billion. India added another 200 million by 2011, when its population reached an estimated 1.2 billion.

Throughout the 19th century and the early part of the 20th India’s population growth grew quite slowly. Many scholars assume that the population was roughly 200 million in the early 1800s. The ﬁrst census was conducted in 1872.

High birth rates were counterbalanced by high death rates, along with periodic famines, outbreaks of lethal diseases such as cholera and smallpox, and endemic parasitic diseases such as malaria.

But epidemics and famines receded in the ﬁrst half of the 20th century. From 1921 there was a shift from a pattern of relatively static population size to one of steady and often rapid increase. As the mid-20th century approached, growth began to accelerate as the more serious threats to public health waned: Death rates fell but birth rates remained high. India’s population growth rate peaked between the 1971 and 1981 censuses, but growth in absolute numbers has not yet peaked. The country added 16 million people annually in the 1980s and 18 million annually in the 1990s.

India’s population growth slowed as the birth rate gradually declined beginning in the late 1960s. Since the early 1970s, the birth rate has fallen from just under 40 births per 1,000 population to 21 per 1,000 in 2011. This decline reﬂected the concerted effort by the government to slow population growth.

**India’s youthful population**

**The reasons for India’s youthful population:**

* High birth rates and improving life expectancy
* Falling death rates
* Children provide families with labour and wages
* Rural child rearing costs are low
* Children are families insurance against future problems
* Religious beliefs place a high value on children

**Consequences associated with a youthful population:**

* Continuous population growth as the young themselves have children.
* Rural over-population
* Burden of high youth dependency
* High costs of education and childcare
* An assured labour force for the future
* Low costs of proving for the elderly
* Insufficient food supplies to feed the growing population.
* Difficulty providing jobs.
* Pressure on resources.
* And in the long term: An ageing population to support.

**Where are the girls?**

India’s population has an abnormally high ratio of males to females, particularly at young ages. While about 105 boys are born for every 100 girls in most countries, the ratio is about 113 per 100 in India, and it ranges up to 129 per 100 in some states. This skewed ratio has been increasing.

The explanation is the abortion of female fetuses. While abortion has been legal in India since 1972, sex-selective abortion has been illegal since 1994.

However, the government has not effectively enforced the ban. The practice has increased, especially in wealthier states, such as Haryana and Punjab, and in urban areas, where couples are more likely to have access to the prenatal tests to determine their fetus’ sex. The government has redoubled efforts to enforce the ban in recent years in the face of growing alarm at the frequency of female feticide.

Efforts to stem the practice of sex-selective abortion include a broader campaign to improve the status of women and to encourage parents to value daughters as

well as sons. In districts where son preference is especially strong, initiatives involve medical professionals, religious leaders, schools, television shows, and politicians. A “Save a Girl Child” campaign highlighted the achievements and value of young girls.

This desire to enhance the value of daughters was behind the government’s decision to choose a baby girl as India’s ofﬁcial “billionth baby,” born in Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi on May 11, 2000.

**Mortality**

India’s mortality has been slowly declining. In the early 1970s, the infant mortality rate (IMR) was about 130 deaths per 1,000 live births. By 2011, the IMR declined to about 50. Maternal mortality has also declined since the 1970s, although at 230 maternal deaths per 100,000 births in 2008 (UNICEF), the rate remains higher than in many other less-developed countries.

Declining death rates, especially among infants and young children, boosted the average life expectancy for Indians from about 50 years in the early 1970s to 66.8 years in 2011. The national average is similar to levels in neighbouring Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Yet, life expectancies are above 70 years in some Indian states such as Kerala, and above 80 in other Asian countries such as Singapore and Japan, suggesting there is room for improvement in India.

<http://www.prb.org/pdf07/futurepopulationofindia.pdf>