

Behold, Earth's third richest country by 2027

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Bustling: India is home to 1.4 billion — nearly 20% of the people on Earth.

Could India save the world? India has more people than any other country. And it could soon have more money than other countries too.

What's happening?

2024 is a big year for **India**. The country will hold one of the biggest **elections** on Earth this spring. It is the country's first election since it took the top spot from **China** and become the most populated country in the world.

Find out more

India's **economy** is growing fast too. The country has many factories, and many people work in providing services to people around the world.

By 2027, some **experts** think India could be the third-biggest economy.

But India has some challenges too. Many Indian children leave school before they turn 18. And some go hungry, stopping them from being healthy and growing.

Meanwhile, Indian women still do not have the same rights and freedoms as men.

These things could change. In one Indian state, Kerala, 97% of people can read and write. It does not matter how much money someone has, or whether they are a girl or a boy — the state wants everyone to be able to go to school. Other states could follow Kerala's example.

As India's population and economy grows, it could become one of the most powerful countries in the world.

Could India save the world?

Some say

Yes! India could become a world-leading country. It could challenge the West and China.

Others think

No! India is growing quickly. But it still faces big challenges, such as education, health and women's rights.

Some people say

"India is a land of contrasts, a land of beauty and squalor, of wealth and poverty, of peace and violence."

Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 – 1964), First prime minister of India

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - What do you know about India?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: Does a strong economy make a country powerful?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure from this story.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Which are the most powerful countries in the world?

5. Express

What do others believe? - Does a bigger population make a country more powerful? Discuss as a class.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Draw a map of India. Label it with five important facts about India.

Glossary

India - A country in South Asia. It has the second-largest population in the world, with a population of 1.4 billion.

Elections - When a vote is held to decide who should represent a group of people.

China - A country in East Asia, home to 1.4 billion people.

Economy - The way that money flows through a country, which affects wages and the cost of living.

Experts - Someone who knows a lot about a particular subject.