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The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

India

Country name	India
State title in English	Republic of India
State title in official languages (romanized in brackets)	भारत गणराज्य (Bhārat Gaṇarājya)
Name of citizen	Indian
Official languages	Hindi, written in Devanagari script, and English[1]
Country name in official languages (romanized in brackets)	भारत (Bhārat)
Script	Devanagari
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	IN/IND
Capital	New Delhi
Population	1,210 million[2]

Introduction

India occupies the greater part of South Asia. It was part of the British Empire from 1858 until 1947 when India was split along religious lines into two nations at independence: the Hindu-majority India and the Muslim-majority Pakistan. Its highly diverse population consists of thousands of ethnic groups and hundreds of languages.

Northeast India comprises the states of Arunāchal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghālaya, Mizoram, Nāgāland, Sikkim and Tripura. It is connected to the rest of India through a narrow corridor of the state of West Bengal. It shares borders with the countries of Nepal, China, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh. The mostly hilly and mountainous region is home to many hill tribes, with their own distinct languages and culture.

Geographical names policy

PCGN policy for India is to use the Roman-script geographical names found on official India-produced sources. Official maps are produced by the Survey of India primarily in Hindi and English (versions are also made in Odiya for Odisha state, Tamil for Tamil Nādu state and there is a Sanskrit version of the political map of the whole of India). The Survey of India is also responsible for the standardization of geographical names in India.

Language/s

The Constitution of India states that the two official languages of India are Hindi (written in Devanagari script) and English (which continued to be a widely-used lingua franca post-independence). The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists 22 languages, which are classified as scheduled languages and given recognition, status and official encouragement in India: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada,

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[1] English is widely used for official and commercial purposes. Language codes given in this Factfile are ISO-639 codes.
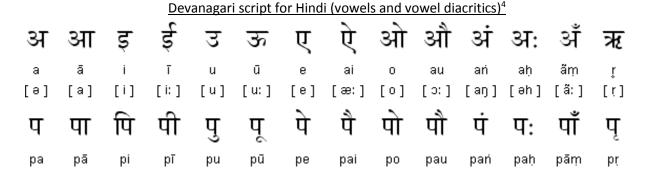[2] 2011 India census.

Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri. There are calls for a further 38 languages to be included.

Hindi is not the national language of India. It is, however, the most commonly spoken language (43.6% speak it as their first language per the 2011 census) and it serves as the lingua franca across much of northern and western India. Bengali is the second most spoken (8.3% speak it as their first language) and understood language in the country, with many speakers in eastern and northeastern regions. The Central Institute of Indian Languages was set up in 1969 to assist and co-ordinate the development of Indian Languages.

Geographical names are field collected in the original language, e.g. Marathi, Telugu, Urdu etc. These names are then transcribed by the Survey of India into a standard Devanagari script form via the Hunterian System[3], to produce the final official form, labelled "English". Over recent years, there has been an effort to update the names in India still spelt in an anglicized manner, see Karnātaka on page 4.

Devanagari is an abugida script, whereby each consonant has an inherent vowel (a), that can be changed with the different vowel signs (illustrated below with the consonant 'pa').

<u>Devanagari script for Hindi (vowels and vowel diacritics)[4]</u>

Administrative structure
At first-order administrative level (ADM1), India is divided into 28 states and 8 union territories. The union territories are governed by administrators, appointed by the President of India. Three of the territories (Delhi, Jammu and Kashmīr, Puducherry) have partial statehood, with legislatures and a Lieutenant Governor who acts as a representative of the President of India.

At ADM2 level, the states and territories often use different local titles for the same level of subdivision; several villages or village clusters may be called tehsils, talukas, subdivisions, mandals or circles.

States
1. **Andhra Pradesh**

Location	15° 50' 00" N, 079° 45' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-AP
Centre	Hyderābād (de jure) (17° 23' 03" N, 078° 27' 23" E)
	Amarāvati (de facto) (16° 34' 31" N, 080° 21' 29" E)
Language	Telugu (has its own script), English
Districts	13

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[3] A transliteration method developed in the late nineteenth century by William Wilson Hunter. It is the system also used to romanize names in Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
[4] For consonants see the BGN/PCGN romanization system for Nepali.

Website	https://aponline.gov.in/apportal/index.asp

When Andhra Pradesh was divided into the two states of Telangāna and Andhra Pradesh in 2015, the existing capital of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderābād, became the capital of both states. After 10 years, it was planned that Hyderābād would continue to be the capital of the state of Telangāna, and a new capital created for the state of Andhra Pradesh. The new city of Amarāvati is in the process of becoming the new capital, but recent reports suggest that the coastal city of Visākhapatnam is set to become the administrative capital, Kurnool the judicial capital and Amarāvati the legislative capital.[5]

2. **Arunāchal Pradesh**

Location	28°15' 00" N, 094°40' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-AR
Centre	Itānagar (27°06' 08" N, 093°41' 31" E)
Language	English
Districts	25
Website	http://www.arunachalpradesh.gov.in/

Formerly the North-East Frontier Agency, in 1972 it became the union territory of Arunāchal Pradesh (plus part of the state of Assam). It became a state in 1987. See Disputed Areas section.

3. **Assam**

Location	26° 15' 00" N, 093° 00' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-AS
Centre	Dispur (26° 08' 08" N, 091° 48' 02" E)
Language	Assamese (has its own script), Bengali, Bodo
Districts	33
Website	https://assam.gov.in/

4. **Bihār**

Location	25° 45' 00" N, 085° 45' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-BR
Centre	Patna (25° 36' 55" N, 085° 06' 04" E)
Language	Hindi, Maithili, Urdu
Districts	9 divisions 38 districts
Website	http://gov.bih.nic.in

On 15 November 2000, southern Bihār was ceded to form the new state of Jhārkhand.

5. **Chhattīsgarh**

Location	21° 30' 00" N, 082° 00' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-CT
Centre	Raipur (21° 14' 00" N, 081° 38' 00" E)
Languages	Chhattisgarhi, Hindi
Districts	28
Website	http://www.cgstate.gov.in

Formed on 1st November 2000 from part of Madhya Pradesh. Chhattisgarhi is written in Devanagari script. A new planned capital city, Naya Raipur (or Nava Raipur), is being constructed around 17 miles outside of the current Raipur city.

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[5] https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/andhra-pradesh-to-get-3-city-capital-in-place-of-amaravati

6. **Goa**

Location	15° 20' 00" N, 074° 05' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-GA
Centre	Panaji (15° 29' 54" N, 073° 49' 28" E)
Language	Konkani
Districts	2
Website	https://www.goa.gov.in

Formerly part of the Goa, Dāman and Diu union territory, Goa became a state in 1987, with Dāman and Diu remaining a union territory. Until 1961, Goa was part of Portuguese India.

7. **Gujarāt**

Location	23° 00' 00" N, 071° 45' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-GJ
Centre	Gāndhīnagar (23° 13' 00" N, 072° 41' 00" E)
Language	Gujarati (has its own script), Hindi
Districts	33
Website	https://gujaratindia.gov.in

Gujarāt borders the Pakistani province of Sindh, see Sir Creek in Disputed Areas. The centre was at Ahmadābād (Ahmedabad, sometimes seen as Ahmedābād) until 1970s.

8. **Haryāna**

Location	29° 15' 00" N, 076° 20' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-HR
Centre	Chandīgarh[6] (30° 44' 11" N, 076° 47' 18" E)
Language	Hindi, English, Punjabi[7]
Districts	22
Website	https://haryana.gov.in/index.html

9. **Himāchal Pradesh**

Location	31° 55' 00" N, 077° 15' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-HP
Centre	Shimla (summer) Dharamshāla[8] (winter)
Language	Hindi, Sanskrit[9]
Districts	12
Website	https://himachal.nic.in/en-IN/

Following the 1947 independence from British India, the region became the province of Himāchal Pradesh and later a union territory. In 1966, it was merged with parts of neighboring Punjab state and was granted full statehood in 1971.

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[6] See Chandīgarh union territory on page 8; a city, district and union territory that serves as the capital of both Punjab and Haryana states.
[7] Made an additional official language in 2010.
[8] Sometimes seen as Dharamsala.
[9] Made an additional official language in 2019.

10. **Jhārkhand**

Location	23° 45' 00" N, 085° 30' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-JH
Centre	Rānchi (23° 20' 52" N, 085° 20' 19" E)
Language	Hindi[10]
Districts	24
Website	http://jharkhand.gov.in

The state of Jhārkhand was created on 15th November 2000, from the southern portion of Bihār state.

11. **Karnātaka**

Location	14° 40' 00" N, 075° 50' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-KA
Centre	Bengalūru (12° 58' 37" N, 077° 35' 14" E)
Language	Kannada (often called Kanarese) (has its own script)
Districts	30
Website	https://karnataka.gov.in

In 2014, the Karnātaka government renamed 12 English settlement names, to correspond more closely with the local Kannada-language form, e.g. Bangalore to Bengalūru, Mangalore to Mangalūru and Mysore to Mysūru.[11]

12. **Kerala**

Location	10° 25' 00" N, 076° 30' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-KL
Centre	Thiruvananthapuram[12] (08° 29' 08" N, 076° 56' 57"E)
Language	Malayalam (has its own script), English, Tulu (has its own script)
Districts	14
Website	https://kerala.gov.in

13. **Madhya Pradesh**

Location	23° 30' 00" N, 078° 30' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-MP
Centre	Bhopāl (23° 15' 17" N, 077° 24' 10" E)
Language	Hindi
Districts	52
Website	https://mp.gov.in

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[10] Jharkhand has accorded second language status to Angika, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Ho, Kharia, Kurukh, Khortha, Kurmali, Magahi, Maithili, Mundari, Nagpuri, Odia, Santali and Urdu.

[11] See 2014 PCGN Information Paper Karnataka State, India: Name Changes.

[12] Formerly, and often still known as, Trivandrum.

14. **Mahārāshtra**

Location	19° 30' 00" N, 076° 00' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-MH
Centre	Mumbai (summer) (18° 59' 16" N, 072° 50' 11"E)
	Nāgpur (winter) (21° 08' 42" N, 079° 05' 10"E)
Language	Marathi
Districts	36
Website	https://www.maharashtra.gov.in/1125/Home

15. **Manipur**

Location	24° 45' 00" N, 093° 50' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-MN
Centre	Imphāl (24° 48' 29" N, 093° 56' 39" E)
Language	Maitei (has its own script), English
Districts	16
Website	https://manipur.gov.in

16. **Meghālaya**

Location	25° 30' 00" N, 091° 20' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-ML
Centre	Shillong (25° 34' 26" N, 091° 53' 49" E)
Language	English
Districts	11
Website	http://meghalaya.gov.in/megportal/

Previously a district of the state of Assam under British rule, it became a state in 1972.

17. **Mizoram**

Location	23° 20' 00" N, 092° 50' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-MZ
Centre	Āīzawl (23° 44' 12" N, 092° 42' 53" E)
Languages	English, Hindi, Mizo
Districts	11
Website	https://mizoram.gov.in

Previously a district of the state of Assam under British rule, it became a union territory in 1972 and then a state in 1987. It has the highest concentration of tribal people of all the states of India. The Mizo people and their language are protected as a scheduled tribe.

18. **Nāgāland**

Location	26° 05' 00" N, 094° 30' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-NL
Centre	Kohīma (25° 40' 29" N, 094° 06' 40" E)
Language	English
Districts	12
Website	https://www.nagaland.gov.in/portal

Other than English, Nagamese, a creole language based on Assamese, is widely spoken.

19. Odisha

Location	20° 30' 00" N, 084° 25' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-OR
Centre	Bhubaneshwar (20° 16' 21" N, 085° 50' 02" E)
Language	Odia (has its own script)
Districts	30
Website	https://www.odisha.gov.in

Previously known as Orissa until 2011.

20. Punjab

Location	30° 55' 00" N, 075° 25' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-PB
Centre	Chandīgarh[13] (30° 44' 11" N, 076° 47' 18" E)
Language	Punjabi (written in India with the Gurmukhi script)
Districts	22
Website	https://www.punjab.gov.pk

Part of the larger Punjab region with the Pakistani province of Punjab to the west.

21. Rājasthān

Location	26° 35' 00" N, 073° 50' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-RJ
Centre	Jaipur (26° 54' 48" N, 075° 47' 16" E)
Language	Hindi, English
Districts	33
Website	https://rajasthan.gov.in/Pages/default.aspx

22. Sikkim

Location	27° 35' 00" N, 088° 30' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-SK
Centre	Gangtok (27° 19' 33" N, 088° 36' 44" E)
Languages	English, Nepali (the lingua franca), Sikkimese (written using the Tibetan script), Lepcha
Districts	4
Website	https://www.sikkim.gov.in

Previously a sovereign territory, and then a British protectorate, Sikkim became a protectorate of India in 1950 and then an Indian state in 1975. Part of the Eastern Himalayas, Sikkim is bordered by the Xizang autonomous region of China (Tibet), Bhutan and Nepal.

23. Tamil Nādu

Location	11° 00' 00" N, 078° 20' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-TN
Centre	Chennai[14] (13° 05' 05" N, 080° 14' 54" E)
Language	Tamil (has its own script), English

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[13] See Chandīgarh union territory on page 8; a city, district and union territory that serves as the capital of both Punjab and Haryana states.
[14] Formerly known as Madras until 1996.

Districts	38
Website	https://www.tn.gov.in

Renamed from Madras state in 1969.

24. **Telangāna**

Location	17° 50' 00" N, 079° 05' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-TG
Centre	Hyderābād (17° 23' 03" N, 078° 27' 23" E)
Language	Telugu (has its own script), Urdu
Districts	33
Website	https://www.telangana.gov.in

Created in 2015, when Andhra Pradesh was divided into two states: Telangāna and Andhra Pradesh.

25. **Tripura**

Location	23° 45' 00" N, 091° 44' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-TR
Centre	Agartala (23° 50' 10" N, 091° 16' 46" E)
Languages	English, Kokborok (written in Roman script), Bengali
Districts	8
Website	https://tripura.gov.in

26. **Uttar Pradesh**

Location	27° 00' 00" N, 080° 45' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-UP
Centre	Lucknow (26° 50' 21" N, 080° 55' 23" E)
Language	Hindi, Urdu
Districts	75
Website	http://up.gov.in

27. **Uttarākhand**

Location	30° 15' 00" N, 079° 15' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-UT
Centre	Dehra Dūn (30° 19' 28" N, 078° 02' 02" E)
Languages	Hindi, Sanskrit[15]
Districts	13
Website	https://uk.gov.in

On 9th November 2000, the new state of Uttarākhand was carved out from northern Uttar Pradesh.

28. **West Bengal**

Location	24° 00' 00" N, 088° 00' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-WB
Centre	Kolkāta[16] (22° 33' 45" N, 088° 21' 47" E)

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[15] Sanskrit was made an additional official language in 2010.
[16] Previously known as Calcutta.

Languages	Bengali (has its own script), English[17]
Districts	23
Website	https://www.wb.gov.in

As part of the 1947 Partition of India, the Bengal region was split along religious lines into two separate entities: West Bengal, a state of India, and East Bengal, a province of Pakistan which later became the independent country of Bangladesh.

Union territories

1. **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

Location	10° 00' 00" N, 093° 00' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-AN
Centre	Port Blair (11° 40' 00" N, 092° 45' 00" E)
Languages	English, Hindi
Districts	3
Website	https://www.andaman.gov.in/

The Andaman Islands are an archipelago of nearly 600 islands between the Bay of Bengal and India in the west and the Andaman Sea and Myanmar (Burma) to the north and east. Most of the islands form the Andaman and Nicobar Islands union territory, with a few islands in the north, including the Cocos Islands, belonging to Myanmar (Burma). Only 38 of the islands are inhabited.

2. **Chandīgarh**

Location	30° 43' 40" N, 076° 46' 40" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-CH
Centre	Chandīgarh (30° 44' 11" N, 076° 47' 18" E)
Language	English
District	1
Website	http://chandigarh.gov.in

Chandīgarh is a city, a district and a union territory that serves as the capital of the two neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryāna. The city is not a part of either of the two states but is governed directly by the Government of India, which administers all union territories in the country.

3. **Dādra and Nagar Haveli and Damān and Diu**

Location	20° 11' 00" N, 073° 00' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-DH
Centre	Silvassa (20° 16' 26" N, 072° 59' 48" E)
Languages	Hindi, Gujarati, English
Districts	3
Website	https://daman.nic.in/

The coastal enclaves (of the state of Gujarāt) of Damān (Portuguese: Damão) and Diu were part of Portuguese India along with Goa and Dādra and Nagar Haveli (enclaves within the state of Mahārāshtra). In 1954 Dādra and Nagar Haveli became *de facto* independent from Portugal and in 1961 Diu and Damān became part of India along with Goa. In 2019, legislation was passed to merge the union territory of Damān and Diu with its neighbouring union territory, Dādra and Nagar Haveli, to form the new union territory of 'Dādra and Nagar Haveli and Damān and Diu' with effect from 26th January 2020.

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[17] Nepali, Hindi, Odia, Punjabi, Santali and Urdu were granted additional official status in Chandīgarh in 2012.

4. **Jammu and Kashmīr**

Location	33° 10' 00" N, 074° 45' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-JK
Centre	Srīnagar (summer) (34° 05' 08" N, 074° 48' 20"E) Jammu (winter) (32° 43' 48" N, 74° 52' 12" E)
Languages	Urdu, English
Districts	22
Website	https://www.jk.gov.in/jammukashmir/

On October 31st 2019, the existing state of Jammu and Kashmīr was bifurcated into the union territories of 'Jammu and Kashmīr' and 'Ladākh'. It comprises the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which also includes the Pakistani-administered territories of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and the Chinese-administered territories of Aksai Chin and the Trans-Karakoram Tract, both administered by China as part of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region.

5. **Ladākh**

Location	34° 20' 00" N, 077° 25' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-LA
Centre	Leh (34° 09' 58" N, 077° 35' 01" E)
Languages	Hindi, English
Districts	2
Website	https://ladakh.nic.in

On 31st October 2019, the existing state of Jammu and Kashmīr was bifurcated into the union territories of 'Jammu and Kashmīr' and 'Ladākh'.

6. **Lakshadweep**

Location	11° 00' 00" N, 072° 30' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-LD
Centre	Kavaratti (10° 34' 00" N, 072° 37' 00" E)
Languages	Malayalam, English
Districts	1
Website	https://lakshadweep.gov.in

The Laccadive Islands, Minicoy Island and Amindivi Islands are the three island subgroups in the union territory of Lakshadweep (formerly known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands) off the southwest coast of India. It is the smallest union territory in India.

7. **National Capital Territory of Delhi**

Location	28° 40' 00" N, 077° 06' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-DL
Centre	New Delhi (28° 36' 00" N, 077° 12' 00" E)
Languages	Hindi, English
Districts	11
Website	https://delhi.gov.in

8. **Puducherry**

Location	11° 56' 00" N, 079° 49' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code	IN-PY
Centre	Puducherry (11° 56' 02" N, 079° 49' 47" E)

Languages	Tamil, English, French, Telugu, Malayalam
Districts	4
Website	https://www.py.gov.in

Was previously part of French India, when it was known as Pondichéry, until 1954. Pondicherry was the English name.

International Features

PCGN recommended name	Local Names	Location	Feature type
Ganges	Padma (Bangladesh) Ganga (India)	23° 22' 00" N, 090° 32' 00" E	River
Sutlej	Satluj (India) Sutlej (Pakistan) Langqên Zangbo (China)	29° 20' 53" N, 071° 01' 13" E	River
Indus	Yin-tu Ho (China) Indus (India, Pakistan)	23° 59' 33" N, 067° 26' 04" E	River
Himalayas	Himālaya (Nepal, India) Ximalaya (China) Himaliya (Pakistan)	28° 00' 00" N, 084° 00' 00" E	Mountains
Brahmaputra	Yarlung Zangbo Jiang (China) Dihang (India) Jamuna (Bangladesh)	24° 02' 00" N, 090° 59' 00" E	River

Disputed Areas
India is involved in several territorial disputes:

Kashmir
China, India and Pakistan dispute all or part of the Kashmir region.

Trans-Karakoram Tract
This area between India, Pakistan and China is claimed by India, but was unilaterally ceded by Pakistan to China in 1963. It is *de facto* administered as part of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region. It should be labelled on a map as part of China with disputed boundaries, and a label explaining that the area is 'Claimed by India, ceded to China by Pakistan.'

Aksai Chin
This area is claimed by India but administered by China as part of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region. It should be labelled on a map as part of China with disputed boundaries, and a label explaining that the area is 'Claimed by India, administered by China.'

Arunāchal Pradesh
A large part of this northern state of India is claimed by China. It should be shown as part of India.

Doklam
This disputed area is located near the tri-junction of China (Tibet), Bhutan and India. It is claimed by China and Bhutan.

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Sir Creek
The boundary is disputed between Pakistan and India along Sir Creek in the Rann of Kutch, which empties into the Arabian Sea. The position of the final point of the boundary will determine the start of the maritime boundary, thus affecting the EEZ of both countries.

Others
The border between India and China from Aksai Chin to Nepal has six smaller disputed areas: Demchok, Chumar, Kaurik, Shipki Pass, Jadh Ganga (Nelang) and Bara Hoti-Iapthal.

Useful references

- BBC Country Profile: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12557384
- CIA World Factbook https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html
- FCDO Travel Advice: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/india
- National Portal of India: https://www.india.gov.in
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