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South Asia



- Or the Subcontinent
 - What is a **subcontinent**?
 - A large landmass that is part of another continent but distinct from it.
- South Asia
 - Home to 2nd most populous country in the world – India
 - Home to the highest mountain in the world – Everest
 - Land of conflict
 - And much more!!

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India and its physical geography

- A border of mountains in the north:
 - **Karakoram Range**
 - **Himalaya**
- In the south, mountains east and west:
 - **Eastern Ghats**
 - **Western Ghats**
- Mountains divide India in half:
 - **Satpura Range**

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India & its physical geography

- **Ganges Plain** – lies north of the Satpura Range
 - India's most fertile region (see below).
 - Home to about 40% of India's population, many engaged in subsistence farming.
 - The region is supported largely by the Ganges River, which flows from the Himalaya to the Bay of Bengal.



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India & its physical geography

- **Deccan Plateau** – lies south of the Satpura
 - Diverse landscape (see pics below)
 - Valuable for its forests, farmland, and rich deposits of minerals; but vulnerable to *drought*.

Looking toward the Western Ghats - rainshadow Hogenakkal Falls

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India's Climate

- Wide variety of climate zones → →
- Climate is affected greatly by mountains and *monsoons*.
- From droughts to floods, India's weather is often unpredictable.

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Economy & Environment

- **Green Revolution** – following independence, India works to feed itself – largely successful.
- India produces a variety of crops, including rice and **jute**.
 - 2nd largest rice producer in the world.
 - Major producer of jute – what is it?

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Economy & Environment

- **Industry**
 - Major commercial industries have been built up around India's large urban centers
 - *Textiles*, iron, steel, and agricultural refineries.
 - Mining is a major source of income for India
 - Coal, iron ore, and other raw materials.
 - India is a major producer of gems and jewelry.
 - **Globalization** has brought the technology and service industries to India.

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Economy & Environment

- **Cottage Industries**
 - Family or village-based industries in which entire families are involved in production.
 - cotton and silk cloth, rugs, leather goods, metalwork, and other *handicrafts*.

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Economy & Environment

- **India's Environmental Challenges:**
 - Air and water pollution brought on by increased industrialization.
 - Increases in agricultural production have led to *run-off* of pesticides.
 - *Deforestation*, *desertification*, and *soil erosion*.
 - Huge and growing population is putting a strain on natural resources.

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India's People

- At over 1 billion people, India has the world's second largest population.
- Religion – 80% are **Hindu**
 - Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Jainism are also practiced.
 - Hinduism and **reincarnation**
- Language – **Hindi** is the most widely spoken language, but hundreds of dialects are used.
 - English is growing in industrial and business centers

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India's History

- Indus River Valley – 4,000 years ago Indian civilization began
- As Hinduism takes hold, the **caste system** comes into practice. What are **castes**?
- British rule from 1700s to mid-1900s
 - **Mohandas Gandhi** brings independence in 1947.



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India's History

- British division of India – **East and West Pakistan**
 - Religion is the reason for division.
- Conflict begins between India and Pakistan
 - 1971 – East Pakistan become Bangladesh
 - Conflict between India and Pakistan continues today.
 - Kashmir and nuclear arms.
