

Intercultural Understanding Guide: Indian Culture

Geographic context:

- India, officially known as the Republic of India, has one of the oldest cultures in the world. It is a country in South Asia.

Religion:

- India is a religiously diverse country, with 79.8% of the population are Hindu, 14.2% are Muslim, 2.3% are Christian, and 1.7 are Sikhs.
- India has the world's second largest Muslim population.

Language:

- There are 22 official languages in India. The most spoken language is Hindi, which has 615 million speakers; followed by Bengali, which has 265 million speakers.

Values:

- Indians generally place a high value on harmony and unity with others, keeping a strong nexus with their community and relatives.

Social norms/structure/hierarchy:

- India has a long-standing caste system that becomes a form of social stratification, where it divides people into 4 categories.
- Even though it was officially outlawed in 1948, it still impacts the social hierarchy and social class.
- As a collectivist society, Indian society and values often emphasize loyalty and interdependence.
- It is common for people to greet with the traditional Hindu greeting of "Namaste" ('I greet the divine within you'). This is accompanied with a nod of the head or a bow depending on the status of the person you are greeting.

Demographics in Australia:

- According to the 2021 Australian Census, there are 673,352 Indians currently living in Australia. There are also 783,953 Australians who have Indian ancestry.



References:

- [Country Meters](#)
- [Cultural Atlas](#)