India: The Next Economic Superpower?

Background
India’s economic growth in recent years has been impressive. Since 1991, it has averaged more than 6 percent per year, making it the second-fastest-growing economy in the world (second only to China). Many analysts believe this growth will continue and will make India the third-largest economy in the world by the middle of the twenty-first century.

How is this possible in a country where so many people live in poverty? Many factors have contributed to India’s growth, but it would not have been possible without globalization. In the global economy, India’s huge workforce, many of whom speak English, has made it an increasingly attractive location for the outsourcing of services, as well as manufacturing.

For Investigation
Use library or Internet resources to learn more about India’s economic growth. As you research, look for answers to the following questions:

1. Determining Cause and Effect What role has technology played in India’s economic growth?

2. Making Connections How has the large number of English speakers in India contributed to this growth?

3. Differentiating In China, economic growth has been the result of government planning. Has the same been true in India? Explain.
Enrichment Activity
continued

4. Explaining  What are some other factors that have contributed to economic growth in India?

5. Drawing Conclusions  What is the literacy rate in India? How might improving this rate help sustain economic growth?

6. Evaluating  What percentage of India’s population is below the poverty line? How does this impact economic growth?

7. Identifying  What are some other potential obstacles to economic growth?

8. Comparing and Contrasting  Which regions of India have benefited most from economic growth? Which regions have benefited least?

9. Problem-Solving  What steps does the Indian government need to take to promote continued economic growth?
Activity

Prepare and present an oral report that explains why India is poised to be one of the top three economies in the world by the middle of this century. Describe the factors that have contributed to India's economic growth, as well as current or potential problems that could impede that growth. Provide current statistics about India's economy, population, poverty level, literacy rate, and any other factors that might affect India's economic future.

Assessment Checklist

Assess your presentation using the checklist below:

☐ Well organized, with an effective introduction, body, and conclusion
☐ Clearly explained what factors have contributed to India's economic growth
☐ Clearly explained the problems that India faces, which could hinder its growth
☐ Included current statistics about India's economy and population and used them effectively to enhance the report
☐ Spoke clearly and slowly, and made eye contact with the audience

Enrichment Activity

Because China and India have the two largest populations in the world and are also the two fastest-growing economies, they are often compared. Conduct research to learn more about the similarities and differences between the Chinese and Indian economies. Create a chart that highlights the similarities and differences between the two countries.

In the past, India was concerned about its "brain drain," as many of its best-educated workers moved to the United States and other countries to work. Recently, a "reverse" brain drain has taken place, with young American professionals seeking jobs in India. Why do you think young Americans might seek jobs in India? Would you consider moving to India to work? Why or why not? Explain your opinion in three or four paragraphs.

GOING FURTHER

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