

2. Fact sheet on India and the Czech Republic

Fact Sheet on India

Land Area: 3.29 million sq. kms.

Capital: New Delhi Population of Delhi: 13,782,976 (census 2001)

Political System and government: Indian attained independence from British rule on August 15, 1947. The 1950 Constitution provides for a parliamentary system of government with a bicameral parliament and three independent branches: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The country has a federal structure with elected governments in States. There are 28 states and 7 Union Territories (administered directly by the Central government).

Population: 1,166 million (July, 2009 est.) Population growth rate: 1.548% (2009 est.)

Life expectancy: 66.6 years Male: 65.13 years, Female: 67.17 years (2009 est.)

Languages spoken: English enjoys associate status but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication. Hindi is the national language and primary tongue of 30% of the people. There are 18 other official languages.

Major Religions: Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census)

Literacy: 61%, Male 73.4% Female 47.8% (2001 census)

Climate: Varies from tropical monsoon in south to temperate in north

Time Zone: GMT + 5 ½ Hours

Currency Unit:: Indian Rupees **Exchange Rate:** US 1: Rs. 46.91 (March 2010)

GDP (official rate of exchange): \$1.095 trillion (2009- est)

GDP growth rate: 7.2% (2009-2010 est)

GDP – Per Capita (PPP): \$ 3,100 (2009 est)

GDP (Sector wise): Agriculture 17.5%, Industry 20%, Services 62.6% (2009 est)

Industries: Textiles, chemicals, Food processing, Steel, Transportation equipment, Cement, Mining, Petroleum, Machinery, Software

Global Trade: Exports \$ 131930 million , Imports \$ 218534 million (April 09– Jan 2010)

President: Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil (since 25 July, 2007)

Prime Minister: Dr. Manmohan Singh (since 22 May, 2009)

Minister of External Affairs: Shri S.M. Krishna

President: elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of both houses of Parliament and the legislatures of the states for a five year term ((no term limits); election last held on 19 July, 2007. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was elected the first woman President of India, by a large margin securing 66% per cent of the votes. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari was elected new Vice- President on August 10, 2007.

Parliament: Bicameral Parliament consists of the **Council of States or Rajya Sabha** (a body consisting of not more than 250 members up to 12 of whom are appointed by the President, the remainder are chosen by the elected members of the State and territorial assemblies. Members serve 6 year term. **People Assembly or Lok Sabha** (545 seats; 543 elected by popular votes, 2 appointed by the President. Members serve 5 year term. Last elections were held in April/ May, 2009 and next will be held in 2014.

Fact Sheet on Czech Republic

Brief History

Following the First World War, the closely related Czechs and Slovaks of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire merged to form Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918. In 1939, Bohemia and Moravia, which comprise the present day Czech Republic, became German Protectorates, while Slovakia experienced a brief period as an independent nation till 1945.

After World War II, a truncated Czechoslovakia fell within the Soviet sphere of influence. After assumption of power by the Communists in 1948 Coup, a Constitution was adopted establishing a "people democracy". In 1968, socialism was proclaimed through a new Constitution and the country's name was changed to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (CSSR). In 1968, an invasion by the Warsaw Pact troops ended the efforts of the country's leaders to liberalize Communist party rule and create "socialism with a human face". With the collapse of soviet authority in 1989, Czechoslovakia regained its freedom through a peaceful "Velvet Revolution" and the official name was changed to Czechoslovak Federal Republic (CSFR). On 1 January, 1993, the country underwent a "velvet divorce" and Czech and Slovak Republics becoming two independent States.

Joined NATO in 1999 and European Union in 2004.

Name: The Czech Republic

Area: 78,884 sq. kms.

Capital: Prague (Population 1.18 million)

Other major cities: Brno(Po. 0.38 million), Ostrava (0.32 million), Plzen (Pop. 0.17 million) Karolovy Vary (Pop. 0.05 million)

Population: 10.2 million Male 5 m, Female 5.2 million

Regions Fourteen self- governing regions including Prague, came into existence from January 1, 2000. They are: Prague, Central

Bohemia, Plzen, Karlovy Vary, Usti, Liberec, Hradec, Kralove, Pardubice, Vysocina, South Moravia, Olomouc, Moravia-Silesia and Zlin.

Climate: Continental, with warm summers and cold winters.

Ethnic Groups: Czech : 9.27 million (90.06%)
Moravian 0.37 million (3.62%)
Slovak 0.18 million (1.78%)

Religion Agnostic 5.99 million (58.28%)
Roman Catholics 2.71 million (31.65%)
Protestants 0.55 million (5.32%)

Language Czech 94.9%, Slovak 2%, others 2.3%
Literacy 99%

Time Diff. 4- ½ behind IST ; 3 ½ hours behind IST (Summer)

Political System: Parliamentary democracy with President as Head of State and Prime Minister as Head of Govt. Bicameral legislature- Chamber of Deputies (200 members), four year term. Senate (81 members) set up in 1996, one-third (27) of whose members seek election after every 2 years. The last elections to the Chamber of Deputies were held in June, 2006. Coalition government headed by Mr. Mirek Topolánek of Civic Democrats (ODS) took office in January, 2007. The coalition government resigned on 24.3.2009 after it lost no confidence vote in the Chamber of Deputies. Czech President on April 10, 2009 appointed Mr. Jan Fischer, as Prime Minister on the basis of an agreement between the parties of the outgoing government coalition of Civic Democrats (ODS), the Christian Democrats (KDU-CSL) and the Greens, and the opposition Social Democrats (CSSD). The interim government is to rule until elections in May 2010.

President Mr. Vaclav Klaus (Re-elected on 15.2.2008)

Prime Minister Mr. Jan Fischer (since 8 May, 2009)

Deputy PM Mr. Jan Kohout and Mr. Martin Bartak (since May 8, 2009)

Foreign Minister Mr. Jan Kohout

Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Vladimír TosoVsky

Currency: Czech Koruna Exchange Rate: US \$ 1: KC 18.50 (Mar 2009)

Major Industries: Metallurgy, machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, glass, armaments, aircrafts

Global Trade: **Exports \$ 112.425 billion (2009) Imports: \$ 104.294 billion (2009)**

Major Crops: Wheat, Barley, Sugar-beet, potatoes

GDP US \$ 189.7 billion (2009 est.)(official rate) GDP per capita (PPP):
US \$ 25,100 (est 2009) GDP Growth: -4.2% (2009 est)