

INDIA

Official Name:	Republic of India
Capital:	New Delhi
Head of State:	President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
Head of Government:	Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao
Minister of External Affairs:	Dinesh Singh
Minister of Commerce:	Pranab Mukherjee

DOMESTIC SITUATION

India's democracy remains vibrant, despite the many stresses caused by strong regional, linguistic, religious and social differences. Independence movements in Punjab, Kashmir and Assam have taken their toll, and Hindu chauvinism poses a serious challenge to the traditional secular base of Indian politics.

India is a major regional power and a forceful and articulate defender of developing country interests — economic as well as political. India can be expected to stake its claim to a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council if Council reform becomes a real possibility. India is not a signatory of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and its nuclear and conventional weapons ambitions are a source of concern.

CANADIAN TRADE WITH INDIA

In the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, India has been a leading proponent of special treatment for developing countries. Although this position has collided on occasion with developed country interests, India has taken important steps recently to liberalize its economy and promote greater openness to international trade and investment.

CANADIAN INTERESTS

i) Trade and Economic

Indo-Canadian trade relations have broadened somewhat as a result of efforts by both countries to identify and promote a greater degree of commercial activity. Trade and investment relations should expand, though progress will be gradual rather than dramatic.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Total	391.4	316.8	321.2	291.1	391.8
Major exports					
Cereals	8.7	2.4	6.4	0.0	124.4
Wool	40.2	34.1	20.5	29.9	89.2
Wood pulp	46.1	19.8	44.7	26.1	41.7
Other	58.3	10.6	21.0	19.8	48.8
Major imports					
Aircraft, spacecraft and parts	11.4	13.4	1.6	0.1	37.9
Total	205	224	227	240	218
Major imports					
Clothing and accessories not knitted	50.7	57.9	72.6	74.0	83.3
Clothing and accessories knitted	5.7	9.6	11.9	10.3	19.1
Articles of leather	8.5	14.3	15.1	12.8	18.7
Carpets and floor coverings	21.1	23.5	15.3	17.0	15.1
Others	5.2	5.1	4.9	7.9	10.0