



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN

response

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# INDIA

## COUNTRY PROFILE



**AREA:** 3,287,263 sq km  
**POPULATION:** 1,166 million  
**CAPITAL:** New Delhi  
**ETHNICITY:** Indo-Aryan 72%  
Dravidian 25%  
Other 3%

**RELIGION:** Hindu 80.5%  
Muslim 13.4%  
Christian 2.3%  
Sikh 1.9%

### BACKGROUND

India's civilization is one of the oldest in the world, dating back at least 5,000 years. By the 19th century Britain had assumed political control of most of India. Under the leadership of Gandhi and Nehru nonviolent resistance to British colonialism led to India's independence in 1947. The subcontinent was divided into the secular state of India and the smaller Muslim state of Pakistan. India is the world's largest functioning democracy. However, the rise of extreme nationalist movements have infiltrated most of the power structures in India, threaten democracy and push for an intolerant Hindu dictatorship.

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

India's constitution provides for full religious freedom of worship and witness for all religions. However the RSS and VHP (Hindu extreme nationalist movements) have grown in size and strength and demand anti-conversion legislation and legal restrictions on Christian activities. There is an alarming passivity by the authorities towards violence and even murder of Christian workers. Repeatedly waves of violence, fuelled by hate campaigns towards Christians have flared up in various parts of the country. Christianity is seen and persecuted as a "foreign" religion.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.CHRISTIANRESPONSE.ORG](http://WWW.CHRISTIANRESPONSE.ORG)

# INDIA

## Help to bring about lasting change in India

**We support indigenous ministry, churches, and organizations. Consider the following two examples.**

Netu has been physically challenged from birth. At a school for the physically challenged she received practical handcrafting skills that are allowing her to earn a large portion of her livelihood. She is very talented and continued to develop her skills, enabling her to now teach at the school. \$ 250 provides a physically challenged individual with training and empowers them toward self-sufficiency.

Amanath is a church planter. He visits people in their villages and prays for their needs. God reveals himself to people as a powerful and compassionate deliverer who frees them from demonic oppression and leads them into a personal relationship with Christ. \$ 100 per month provide Amanath with the needed support to be able to travel regularly as messenger of Jesus.

## Current Projects

- Assisting the persecuted – legal assistance for persecuted Christians and churches. Although India is a rule-of-law state and is responsible for the protection of its citizens, the authorities frequently fail to protect against violent civil attacks. In the case of atrocities committed against Christians the police intervenes reluctantly and frequently refuses to receive criminal complaints.
- Education for those suffering discrimination – Education for children in slum areas and for the physically challenged with the goal of reintegration into society. Approximately a quarter of the population are considered “untouchables,” and consequently oppressed by the cast system. Consequently, helping “untouchables” is perceived to be a real thorn in the side of militant Hindus.
- Church planting – Supporting the spreading of the gospel. Revival among “untouchables” and tribal groups with their interest in Jesus Christ continues. Evangelists are bringing the good news to them and pastors are supporting them as they follow Christ.



## How will you respond?

[www.christianresponse.org](http://www.christianresponse.org)



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