

Mission Posts and Fast Facts
Southern Asia Division
First Quarter 2024

Youth/Adult Mission Facts

India

1. India has 4,537 churches, 4,692 companies, and 1,145,399 members. In a population of 1,241,267,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 1,084 people.
2. The territory of India, Burma, and Ceylon functioned as the India Mission from 1895, when the General Conference Mission Board sent D. A. Robinson as the first supported worker and appointed him superintendent.
3. The Southern Asia Division (SUD) was first organized in 1910 as the India Union Mission, and in 1920 it became the Southern Asia Division.
4. Gerald Christo became the first national division president from 1980 to 1990.
5. Oriental Watchman Publishing House, the division's only publishing house, is located in Salisbury Park in Pune, and prints material in twenty languages.
6. Spicer Adventist University (previously Spicer Memorial College) has been the division's main educational institution since 1937, moving from Bangalore to its current location in Pune in 1942.
7. According to the 2011 census, 79.8 percent of the population of India is Hindu, 14.2 percent is Muslim, and 2.3 percent are Christian.

8. The official languages of India are Hindi and English.
9. The capital of India is New Delhi, with a population of 249,998, although the greater urban area of Delhi has a population of 28,514,000.
10. The sari is said to date back to at least 3000 BCE. Sari wearers often choose the color of their garment based on the occasion; red is often worn by brides to symbolize fertility and prosperity.
11. The game of chess is said to have originated in India 1,500 years ago, based on the seven-century war game called *chaturanga* from northwestern India.
12. Bollywood is the world's largest producer of films, producing an average of 1,500–2,000 feature films a year.
13. Indian Railways has 1.4 million employees, making it the largest employer in the world. Each day around 23 million passengers are transported on its extensive network.
14. Khari Baoli in Delhi been in operation since the seventeenth century and is Asia's largest wholesale spice market.
15. The Bengal tiger is India's national animal and was adopted as India's symbolic animal in 1972. Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand, and Bandipur National Park in Karnataka, have the largest population of Bengal tigers.
16. White tigers are only found among Bengal tigers.

17. Society throughout India is divided into social ranks, called castes. Your caste is determined by birth, with almost no way to change it. High castes include priests, landowners, and soldiers. At the bottom of society are the “Untouchables,” who have no caste and do the most menial jobs.
18. Cows are sacred in India and cannot be harmed. They are allowed to wander through city streets, which often causes traffic jams.
19. India is the only country in the world with both lions and tigers.
20. In the eighteenth century, Britain seized control over most of India, and there were uprisings against British rule in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1920, the famous Mahatma Gandhi began nonviolent protests to push the British out, and in 1947, India finally gained independence.
21. Traditionally marriages in India are arranged by the older family members of the bride and groom, although, non-arranged “love matches” are becoming more common in cities.

Nepal

1. Nepal has 26 churches, 82 companies, and 9,478 members. In a population of 30,896,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 3,260 people.
2. Nepal closed its borders for many years and Seventh-day Adventists were not allowed to enter. However, Nepalese who traveled outside of the country heard the Church's message and returned home to share it with their friends and families.
3. In 1936, Kenneth Simpson and two Adventist medical missionaries visited several villages of Nepal along the border, and preached to them in Hindi. It was the first time many of them had ever heard about Jesus and the Bible.
4. In 1951, Nepal began opening its borders to foreigners and tourists. While handing out Voice of Prophecy bible-study cards on the border, Pastor George Vandeman was told, "You're too late. I'm already on lesson thirty." The person proved to be one of many people who had been studying the Adventist message in this way.
5. Dr. Stanley Gordon and Mrs. Raylene Sturges founded Scheer Memorial Hospital in June 1957. Named after the Scheers, a New Jersey couple who donated money for the institution, the hospital opened on May 18, 1960, in Banepa, Nepal, an hour east of Kathmandu. It is now a 150-bed hospital and nursing college.
6. The most popular religions in Nepal are Hinduism, at about 81 percent, and Buddhism, at about 9 percent. Christians only make up about 1.5 percent of the population.

7. The capital of Nepal is Kathmandu, where 3 million people live — about 10 percent of Nepal's population.
8. About 10 percent of the population of Nepal lives in the mountains over 10,000 feet (3,048 meters) and are traders, farmers, and herders.
9. Siddhartha Gautama, more commonly known as the Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, was, according to tradition, born in Lumbini, in what is now Nepal, during the sixth or fifth century BCE.
10. Nepal is a long, narrow country, bordered by India to the South and China to the north.
11. Nepal has eight out of ten of the world's highest mountains, including the very highest, Mount Everest, which is 29,031.7 ft (8,848.86 m) high. Mount Everest is called Sagarmatha in Nepali and Chomolungma by the local Sherpas and Tibetans.
12. Nepal is the only country in the world with a non-rectangular flag: two triangular shapes stacked on one another. It has been the official flag of Nepal since 1962, but the basic design has been used in Nepal for over 2,000 years.
13. Nepal is home to many orchid and rhododendron species, around 40 percent of the world's Meconopsis poppy, and nearly 6,000 flower species.
14. The gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) is native to the Indian subcontinent and is the longest crocodile in the world — up to 19 ft 8 in (6 m) long. It has a long, narrow snout and 110 sharp, interlocking teeth. The Gharial Conservation Project in Nepal is reintroducing the endangered crocodile to areas where it has disappeared.
15. Nepali food has a number of distinctive vegetarian cuisines. The avoidance of violence toward all forms of life in many religious orders was probably a factor in their development.
16. Volleyball was declared as the national sport of Nepal in 2017.

17. Dohori (meaning “debate”) is a kind of Nepali folk music arising from courtship traditions. Two teams take part, usually boys and girls on opposite teams. Questions and answers create a musical conversation, which can last for as long as a week, depending on the quick-thinking ability and wit of the players.
18. The Sherpa are one of the Tibetan ethnic groups native to the most mountainous regions of Nepal, and are highly regarded as elite mountaineers and experts in their local area, particularly for expeditions to climb Mount Everest.

Northeastern India (West Bengal)

1. West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh are in the Northern India Union Section, which has 476 churches, 1,501 companies, and 163,690 members. In a population of 716,496,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 4,377 people.

2. Kolkata (also known as Calcutta), on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River, is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal.
3. When India gained independence in 1947, Bengal was split in two along religious lines. India took the western part, and it was named West Bengal. Pakistan took the eastern part, East Bengal, which became the independent nation of Bangladesh in 1971.
4. The Sundarbans National Park is devoted to conserving the endangered Bengal tiger, as well as other endangered species such as the Gangetic dolphin, river terrapin, and estuarine crocodile.
5. In September 2017, West Bengal became 100% electrified, after electricity finally reached remote villages in the Sunderbans.
6. The state's official languages are Bengali and English
7. Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) was a Bengali poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer and painter who, in 1913, became the first non-European and the first lyricist to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Two of his compositions became the national anthems of India and Bangladesh.

Northern India (Himachal Pradesh)

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2. Himachal Pradesh (meaning "Snow-laden Mountain Province") is a state in the northern part of India, situated in the Western Himalayas,
3. Himachal Pradesh is made up of numerous valleys with rivers flowing through them. Around 90 percent of the population live in rural areas.
4. Himachal Pradesh is almost completely electrified; as of 2016, 99.5 percent of households have electricity.
5. According to the India Corruption Study of 2017, Himachal Pradesh is India's least corrupt state.
6. Many flowers, including gladiolas, carnations, marigolds, roses, chrysanthemums, tulips, and lilies are cultivated for sale in Himachal Pradesh.
7. The state bird of Himachal Pradesh is the Western tragopan, locally known as the jujurana — one of the rarest living pheasants in the world.

South-Central India (Karnataka)

1. Karnataka is in the South-Central India Union Section, which has 256 churches, 201 companies, and 66,021 members. In a population of 290,849,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 4,405 people.

2. Karnataka comes from the Kannada words *karu* and *nādu*, meaning "elevated land."
3. Kannada is the most widely spoken and official language of Karnataka. The state also contains some of the only villages in India that primarily speak Sanskrit.
4. Bengaluru (also known as Bangalore) is the capital and largest city of the Indian state of Karnataka, with a population of more than 8 million and a metropolitan population of around 11 million.
5. Bangalore is home to many vegan restaurants and vegan activism groups. It has been named as India's most vegan-friendly city by the Indian branch of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).
6. Karnataka's smallest district, Kodagu, has produced many Indian field hockey players who have represented India at the international level. The annual Kodava Hockey Festival is the largest hockey tournament in the world.
7. The beautiful Mysore Palace, in Mysore, Karnataka, is one of the most famous tourist attractions in India, after the Taj Mahal, with more than six million annual visitors.

Central India (Maharashtra)

1. Maharashtra is in the Western India Union Section, which has 257 churches, 451 companies, and 108,330 members. In a population of 25,636,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 237 people.

2. The capital of Maharashtra is Mumbai (also known as Bombay), which is built on what was originally seven islands — the Isle of Bombay, Colaba, Mahim, Mazagaon, Parel, Worli, and Old Woman's Island. Land reclamation works in the nineteenth century brought the islands together into one landmass.
3. Maharashtra is made up of 118,809 sq mi (307,713 km²) and is the third-largest state in India.
4. A traditional costume for women in Maharashtra was the *nauvari lugada* (nine-yard sari), made from nine yards (8 m) of fabric. Although the *nauvari lugada* has gone out of fashion, the five-yard sari is still worn, particularly for special occasions, like weddings.
5. The Indian movie industry, popularly known as Bollywood, is based in Mumbai, and the word is a combination of "Bombay" (the former name of Mumbai) and "Hollywood."
6. Cricket is the most popular spectator sport in Maharashtra.
7. Maharashtra has several nature reserve parks, including two special tiger reserves: Melghat Tiger Reserve in Amravati district, and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district.

Children's Mission Facts

Nepal

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21. In 1936, three Adventist missionaries visited villages in Nepal and preached to them in the Hindi language. It was the first time many of them had ever heard about Jesus and the Bible.
22. In 1951, Nepal began letting tourists into the country. While handing out Voice of Prophecy bible-study cards there, a pastor was told, "You're too late. I'm already on Lesson 30." This person turned out to be one of many people who had been studying about Jesus in this way.
23. Dr. Stanley Gordon and Mrs. Raylene Sturges founded Scheer Memorial Hospital in June 1957. Named after the Scheers, a New Jersey couple who donated money for the hospital, it opened on May 18, 1960, in Banepa, Nepal, an hour east of the capital city, Kathmandu.
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3. Gerald Christo became the first Indian division president in 1980.
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7. The official languages of India are Hindi and English.
8. The capital of India is New Delhi.
9. The sari is a garment worn by women in India since at least 3000 BCE. They are brightly colored and for special occasions are made of silk.
10. The game of chess is said to have come from India 1,500 years ago.
11. Bollywood, the Indian version of Hollywood, makes 1,500–2,000 movies a year.
12. Every day around 23 million passengers use the railway in India.
13. Khari Baoli is a spice market in Delhi that has been going since the seventeenth century.
14. The Bengal tiger is India's national animal. Corbett Tiger Reserve and Bandipur National Park have more Bengal tigers than anywhere else.
15. Only Bengal tigers can be white.
16. Society throughout India is divided into social ranks, called castes. Your caste is determined by birth, with almost no way to change it. High castes include priests, landowners, and soldiers. At the bottom of society are the "Untouchables," who have no caste and do the most menial jobs.
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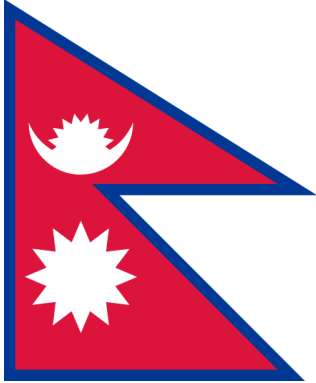
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Flags

Nepal

Color the border dark blue. Color the inside of the flag red. Leave the two figures white.



India

Color the top stripe yellow. Leave the middle stripe white. Color the bottom stripe green. Color the wheel, spokes, and hub in the center dark blue.



Games

India

Four Corners

This is often played by elementary schoolchildren. Four corners are designated, and a player is chosen as “it.” The rest of the players go into the corners. At a signal, the players have to swap corners without being caught. If a player is caught by “it,” he or she becomes “it.”

Langdi

Langdi is played by two teams. Toss a coin and the team that wins the toss defends first. The teams face each other, and the opposing team sends a player to tag as many defenders as he or she can, while hopping on one foot. The team that tags the most defenders wins.

Crafts

Nepal

Tiger Mobile

Supplies

Paper

Crayons, colored pencils, or colored markers

Scissors

Two 8–10 inch (20–25 cm) wooden rods or unsharpened pencils

Paints

String

Tape

Instructions

Paint the wooden rods and let them dry. Cross the rods to form an X, and bind them together securely with string.

Print off or trace four tiger figures onto paper. Color tigers. Cut out figures.

Cut five 18-inch (45-cm) lengths of string. Tie one length of string to the end of each arm of the mobile, and one to the center of the X to hang the mobile from.

Attach each of the dangling ends of the strings to the back of a tiger with a piece of tape.

Hang up mobile and enjoy!



Tiger Printable Template by SuperColoring, available under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 License at <https://www.supercoloring.com/paper-crafts/tiger-printable-template-0>.

Recipes

India

Mango Lassi

Ingredients

1 cup (240 ml) plain yogurt, chilled
1/2 cup (65 g) powdered sugar
1 cup (240 ml) mango puree
1/2 tsp (2.5 ml) cardamom powder
2 tbsp (30 ml) fresh cream, chilled

Instructions

Mix yogurt and powdered sugar in a bowl until the sugar is dissolved. Add mango puree, and mix well. Add cardamom powder and cream, and mix until you have a thick, creamy, and smooth texture. You can add a little water or milk if it is too thick to drink easily.

Pour into a glass and serve chilled.