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India An Emerging Superpower

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Abstract: A superpower is a country which has the capacity to project dominating power and influence anywhere in the world. Currently, the United States is the only country which fulfills the criteria to be considered a superpower. India is poised to be the world's next superpower with sound and transparent financial system, flourishing IT industry and a well-regulated stock market. It has been active politically and economically in the past decade as well as its core institution from independent judiciary and free press. India is on the verge of becoming a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Its scientists are planning to launch a moon probe. The present article tries to draw a real picture of India's dream of becoming a superpower, by putting all these aspects together.

Keywords: India, Super Power, Emerging

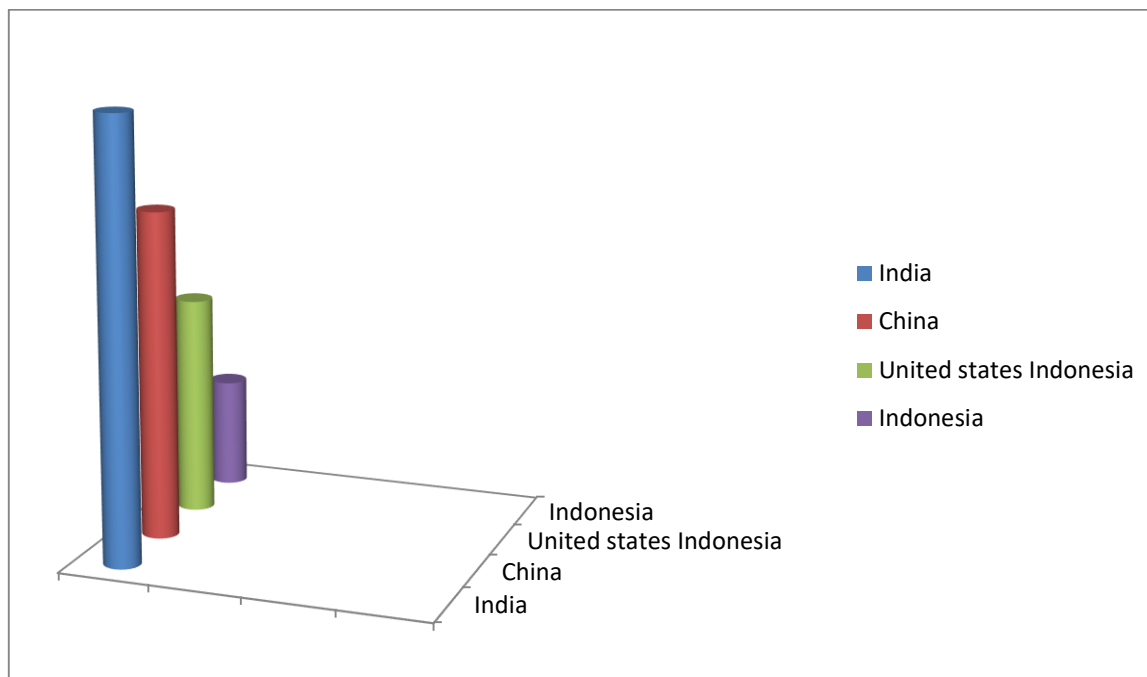
Introduction

"A superpower is a country which has the capacity to project dominating power and influence anywhere in the world. Currently, the United States is the only country which fulfills the criteria to be considered a superpower. Superpower status is achieved by combining means of technological, cultural, military and economic strength as well as diplomatic and soft power influence. Reasons for the growing pride among Indians are not hard to find. In terms of economy, based on purchasing power parity, the Indian economy is the world's third-largest. High-tech centers including Bangalore and Hyderabad, have given way to the rise of top IT companies like Infosys and Wipro. Besides, TCS, HCL, Tech Mahindra are among the international elite in their industry. When it comes to telecom, India is currently the world's second-largest telecommunications market with a subscriber base of 1.20 billion. India has as many cell phone users; almost nowhere is the telecom industry growing faster. Indian television industry has more than 400 private television channels and has an overall market size of \$22.5 billion. The subcontinent is also making great strides in renewable energy sectors like solar and wind power. When it comes to defence, Indian Air Force stands at number 4 in the list of strongest Air Forces, India gets placed in 7th rank in the powerful navies' list and Indian Army again placed in 4th position at the best army rankings. Though, India is now the world's largest weapons importer it is slowly becoming a self-reliant player. With sheer military size, India is now aggressively seeking a seat on the United Nations Security Council. It's also a nuclear power that has expanded its arsenal of warheads. Despite the strong displeasure among the powerful nations, India has no intention of signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. In terms of science and technology, the Indians have sent satellites into space some time ago, and have already launched some to Mars and the Moon. But despite big advantages, there are a number of challenges which hold back the country. Some of them include degradation of liberal values, Naxal insurgency, trivialization of media, large scale corruption, instable politics due to multi-party governments. Apart from this, there are many major problems which are listed out here. Though it is nice to dream about India becoming a superpower, have many friends and be able to set the rules of the game, the Indian needs more clarity on what it wants to do when it becomes a power to reckon with. Let us know further whether India is doing in various sectors and understand how far we are from becoming a superpower [1,6,22].

Population as a factor

India has the world's largest population. A very large number of India's population, about 50%, is below the age group of 24. This provides the nation with a large workforce for many decades, helping in its growth. Due to its high birth rate, India has a young population compared to more developed nations. It has approximately 65% of its population below the age of 35 [12]. In addition, declining fertility is beginning to reduce the youth dependency rate which may

produce a demographic dividend. In the coming decades, while some of the powerful nations will witness a decrease in workforce numbers, India is expected to have an increase. More than 35 million Indians live across the globe. Under fair opportunities, they have become socio-economically successful—especially in the US and the UK where they are the highest earning ethnic demographic. India has the world's largest English speaking/understanding population. It claims one of the largest workforce of engineers, doctors and other key professionals, all comfortable with English. It has the 2nd largest population of "fluent English" speakers, second only to the United States, with estimates ranging from 150 to 250 million speakers, and is expected to have the largest in coming decades[20,10,8].



1. World top four most populated countries in 2023

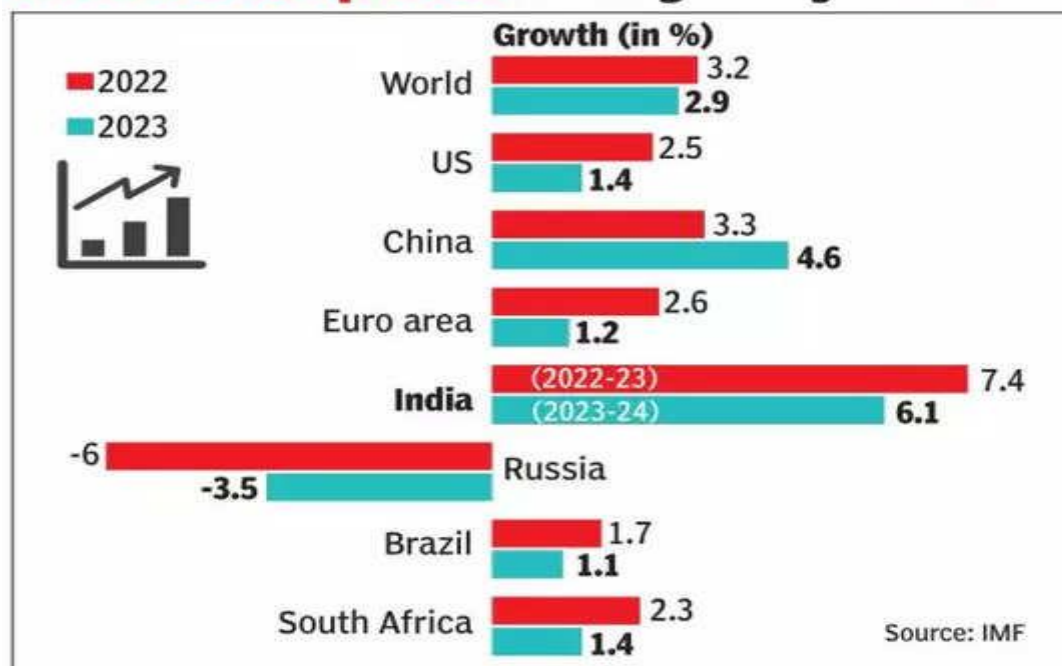
Economic Growth

India's current economic growth (as the world's fastest-growing major economy as of 2015) has improved its standing on the world's political stage, even though it is still a developing country, but one that is showing strong development. Many nations are moving to forge better relationships with India. The economy of India is currently the world's third largest in terms of real GDP (PPP) after the United States of America and the People's Republic of China. According to the World Bank, India overtook China to become the fastest-growing major economy in the world as of 2015. Its record growth was in the third quarter of 2003, when it grew higher than any other emerging economy at 10.4%. India, growing at 9% per year, is the world's second largest producer of food next to China. Food processing accounts for USD 69.4 billion as gross income. According to a 2016 CEO survey conducted by global consulting and accounting firm KPMG found India to be its top growth opportunity for the next three years. India's economy has a GDP of over \$2 trillion at current exchange rates, surpassing Canada and Italy. Moreover, U.S. government projections backed by Bank of America forecasts India to be the third-largest economy in the world by 2029. India has already overtaken Brazil and Russia through purchasing power parity measured by the International Monetary Fund. This blossoming economic powerhouse illustrates the power and prosperity that India will continue to grab onto this decade and beyond[19,9].

Multinational firms like Apple, Bosch and Whirlpool now manufacture goods in India because of its growing middle class that is estimated between 30–270 million, according to Deutsche Bank Research and the National Council on Applied Economic Research (data is quoted by Center for Global Development). McKinsey Global

Institute has even called India “A Bird of Gold” because of its middle class, which is expected to grow to over six hundred million people by 2025. Now, India has begun seeing itself as “a leading power,” is one of the reasons Ford, Suzuki and Tata are building more cars in India than Mexico and slightly below South Korea—while becoming the largest market for motorcycles and scooters in 2016—overtaking China[3,2].

India better placed amid gloomy outlook



2. IMF India GDP: IMF sees India's FY23 growth slowing to 7.4% | India Business News - Times of India

Science and technology

Modern India has had a strong focus on science and technology, realising that it is a key element for economic growth. India ranks third among the most attractive investment destinations for technology transactions in the world. With more and more multinational companies setting up their R&D centres in India, the sector has seen an uptrend in investment in recent years. In the field of space exploration, India pledged its participation in the US-led Artemis Accords and committed to collaborating with NASA on a joint mission to the International Space Station in 2024. India is known as one of the main technology hubs in the world. Indian performance in the IT & BPM sector, and other activities that require advanced technology and added-value production, were responsible for the attraction of a significant amount of investment in the course of Indian development trajectory[6].

3.TOP 25 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD 2020 TO 2021(HENS PETER BECH TECHNICAL REPORT MAY 2020)

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Share 2021	Country	Accumulated
2	1	1	1	1	19.22%	China	50.80%
1	2	2	2	2	16.36%	USA	
3	3	3	3	3	8.02%	India	
4	4	4	4	4	4.05%	Japan	
5	5	5	5	5	3.16%	Germany	
6	6	6	6	6	2.96%	Russia	63.33%
7	7	7	7	7	2.48%	Brazil	
10	10	10	9	8	2.43%	Indonesia	
8	8	8	8	9	2.38%	UK	
9	9	9	10	10	2.28%	France	
12	11	11	11	11	1.77%	Mexico	71.42%
11	12	12	12	12	1.74%	Italy	
14	14	14	13	13	1.61%	South Korea	
13	13	13	14	14	1.60%	Turkey	
15	15	15	15	15	1.38%	Spain	
16	16	16	16	16	1.36%	Canada	76.89%
17	17	17	17	17	1.25%	Saudi Arabia	
19	19	18	18	18	0.99%	Australia	
18	18	19	19	19	0.94%	Iran	
23	22	22	20	20	0.93%	Egypt	
20	20	20	21	21	0.93%	Taiwan	81.08%
21	21	21	22	22	0.89%	Thailand	
22	23	23	23	23	0.86%	Poland	
24	24	25	24	24	0.76%	Nigeria	
25	25	N/A	25	25	0.75%	Pakistan	

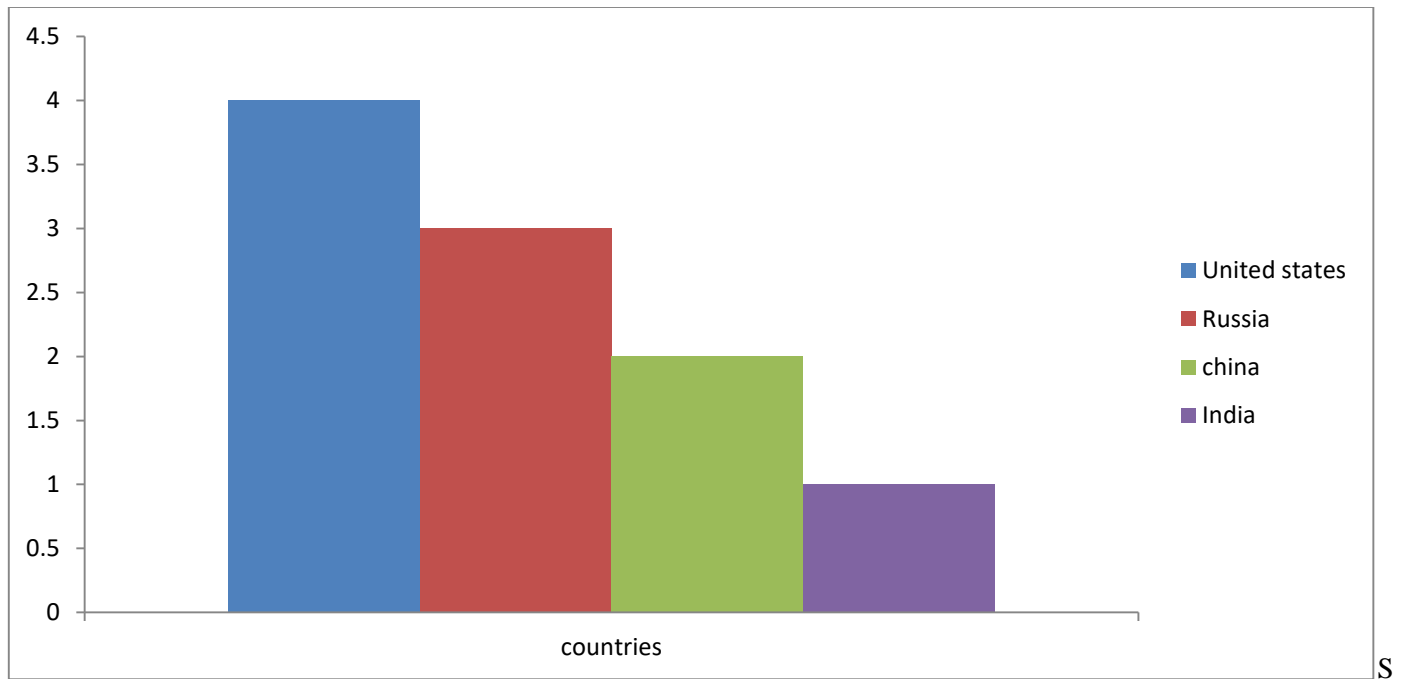
not up to the standards followed in developed countries. India is heading towards implementation of high-speed rail in the country.

Military factors

The Indian Armed Force, India's main defence organisation, consists of two main branches: the core Military of India and the Indian Paramilitary Forces. The Military of India maintains the third largest active duty force in the world after China and the United States,^[112] while the Indian Paramilitary Forces, over a million strong, is the second largest paramilitary force in the world. Combined, the total armed forces of India are 2,414,700 strong, the world's third largest defence force.^[113] The International Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS) counts India's strengths with having 1.4 million troops on active duty and roughly 1.2 million reservists. Further military growth was calculated by The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), "estimated India became the world's fifth-largest military spender in 2016, ahead of France and the United Kingdom." U.S. military procurement has exceeded \$15 billion in the past decade, which started under the Bush and Obama administrations.

Through its nuclear tests in 1998, India positioned itself as a serious contender for great power status. The tests proved to be the catalyst for change. In the contemporary era, since the possession of nuclear weapons and their

delivery systems is the defining characteristic of great powers, such powers tend to seek to deny or deprive other powers of such instruments, often under the garb of concern for world order and international stability. On the other hand, for those powers that have the potential to become great powers, entrance into the exclusive club of nations is also a compelling goal. Inconsistency between aspirations and ascribed status puts pressure on the rising powers to work toward the alteration of the system[18].



4. Global Firepower Index 2023 world military strength rankings

Conclusion: The present paper aims at drawing a clearer picture of India's dream of becoming global superpower. The present paper mainly focuses on India's emergence as the world leader; a state with an extensive ability to exert influence or to project power in much of the world. Factors that contribute to a nation acquiring such clout can be economic, political, demographic, military, cultural, and Health. and the India's evolving position in UN and the second being the Changing nexus between Indo-ASEAN. All the above factors clearly states the emergence of India as an emerging global power.

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