



Country Profile - Commonwealthland

Capital City: Centenary City

People: Commonwealthland is a multi-ethnic and a pluralistic society. While the majority of the population report their ethnic origin as Indo-Aryan (72%), over 25% identify themselves as Dravidian and the rest trace their origins as Mongoloid, Australoid. There is also a significant native/tribal population.

Population: 25 million. A sizeable population is young with an average age of 30-32 years.

Languages: While English is one of the administrative languages of the country, there are officially 22 different languages recognised by the Constitution. Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil and Urdu are some of the other languages spoken.

Geography: Commonwealthland covers a broad geographical area of nearly 750,000 square kilometers. There is very high population density throughout the country. 40% of the population lives in urban areas, largely in five metropolitan cities including the capital. With the exception of the deserts in the north-west and the mountain ranges in the north, the core of the population lives along major river valleys.

Government: The unicameral Parliament is based on the Westminster system. Each member of the Parliament is directly elected in a single-seat constituency by simple majority vote for a fixed term of 5 years.

Head of State: The Honourable President is the Head of State. They are indirectly elected for a term of five years by an electoral college comprising the Parliament and the legislative assemblies of each province/state and territory. He acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Head of Government: The Government is led by a Prime Minister who is the leader of the political party which holds the most seats in the Parliament. A new government was elected in May 2019 after multiparty elections.

Economy: Commonwealth's economy is characterised as a developing mixed economy. It has classified its economy into three sectors - agriculture, industry and services. With a large amount of arable land, some of the major agricultural products include rice, wheat, cotton, groundnut, pulses, spices and fruits. More than 90% of the workforce is employed in the informal sector without any social security which includes agriculture and allied sectors like forestry, logging and fishing. Agriculture continues to be heavily dependent on the monsoon, and the quantity of rain determines the levels of agricultural production.

Commonwealth also possesses a wide range of minerals and other natural resources. Iron ore, manganese, copper, bauxite, zinc, lead are abundant. Some of the key industries in Commonwealth include petroleum, steel, textiles, cement, chemical and mining.

In addition to these sectors, service industries are now the largest and fastest growing sector of the economy. Some of the main service industries include accommodation and food services, finance and insurance, communication, information technology, logistics and transportation among others. Growth in the service sector has also led to rapid urbanisation and movement of people from rural to urban spaces.

Commonwealth exports rice, cotton, raw sugar, textiles, gems and jewelry, engineered goods. Its main imports include crude oil, heavy machinery, electronics, iron, steel and defence equipment.

GDP per capita: USD \$2,041 (142,719 INR)

Annual growth in Real GDP: 4% (2018 forecast)

Unemployment Rate: 7%

Major Trading Partners: USA, Canada, Russia, China, Japan, UAE, UK

International Relations: Commonwealth is a prominent voice in global affairs and has a growing influence in world politics. It has a wide range of global engagements, reflecting its important bilateral and multilateral ties, international trade and commerce. Commonwealth is a founding member of several international organisations such as the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank. It plays a significant role in advocating for the interests of developing nations in multilateral forums. In addition, it is an important contributor to international peacekeeping forces and is a generous international development donor. As a landlocked country, Commonwealth depends on its neighbours for access to seaports.

Health: The provision of healthcare in the Commonwealthland is the responsibility of state governments. However, in practice, the private sector provides the majority of healthcare in the country. The Government's policy encourages private health care expansion with limited public health programmes catering to the poor income groups. Particular areas of concern include high infant mortality rate, under-nutrition, maternal mortality, shortage of medical personnel, communicable diseases, mental health, poor access to health care in remote, rural areas and among the urban poor.

Education: The right to education has been recognised as a fundamental right of the Constitution which provides free and compulsory education to all children aged between 6-14 years. Free education also includes the provisions of textbooks, uniforms, stationery items, scholarships and special educational material for children with disabilities in order to reduce the burden of school expenses.

Commonwealthland is home to several internationally recognised universities and educational institutes. While the Government funds a sizable portion of post-secondary education costs, it has allowed for privatisation of higher education.

Total literacy rate: 74%, Male: 80%, Female: 65%

Women have a lower literacy rate in the country due to societal constraints.

Human Rights: The Constitution of Commonwealthland guarantees basic human rights to its citizens and protects individuals from discrimination and harassment. National Human Rights Commission is responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights. It also deals with complaints under the Protection of Human Rights Act.

Environment: Commonwealthland has legislation that sets a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 35% by 2030, but is not on track to meet this target. The major environmental issues affecting the country include air pollution, poor management of waste, growing water scarcity, water pollution, biodiversity loss, desertification and soil/land degradation.

Current Issues: Over the last two years, Commonwealthland has been experiencing an economic downturn due to a slowdown in investment and low consumer demand. Its muted economic growth may also be attributed to a weak global economy and prolonged trade tensions between major economies. With a large youth population under such conditions, the state is also faced with high unemployment and underemployment rates.

Urbanisation is taking place at an accelerated rate with the rise of the private sector. The movement of population is largely from rural and smaller towns to cities driven by the search for better economic opportunities and standard of living. As a result, housing affordability

and the cost of living are increasing concerns in all the metropolitan cities. The growing rural to urban migration has also resulted in an increasing role for women in the agricultural labour force.

Climate variability and change continues to pose a major threat for citizens of Commonwealthland, affecting its economic activities, food security, health and physical infrastructure. The agricultural sector is particularly at risk from climate change because of its dependence on several climate-sensitive factors for its productivity. Striking a balance between economic growth and development, and protecting the environment is one of the key challenges, apart from improvements in healthcare, education and social services.