



AUSTRALIA NEEDS SKILLS FACT SHEET

KOLKATA (CALCUTTA) EXPO, INDIA

India is a major exporter of heavy and light engineering goods, producing a wide range of items. The bulk of capital goods required for power projects, fertilizer, cement, steel and petrochemical plants and mining equipment are made in India.

The country also makes construction machinery, equipment for irrigation projects, diesel engines, tractors, transport vehicles, cotton textile and sugar mill machinery. The engineering industry has shown its capacity to manufacture large-size plants and equipment for various sectors like power, fertilizer and cement. Lately, air pollution control equipment is also being made in the country. The heavy electrical industry meets the entire domestic demand.

Kolkata is the capital of West Bengal and was chosen as a location due to the number of highly qualified resource industry workers available in West Bengal and the surrounding areas of Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The resources sector expressed great interest in an expo in India. Kolkata was identified as the best location to meet these needs.

While the main focus of this expo will be on the resources sector employers from all industry groups are welcome. This area is ideal for many of the trade skills in demand. Major engineering industries in this state include railway engine and wagon manufacturing, ship building, coal mining, machine tools, textile machinery, transport equipment, engineering goods, car manufacturing and several others, including iron and steel plants at nearby Durgapur. Other industries in the area include chemicals, cotton textiles, leather, footwear, papers, tea, jute products, breweries, paper, pharmaceuticals, electrical and electronics, plastics, software and infotech, vegetable oils, gems and jewellery.

According to the Australian Institute of Management, 'While Australia faces a labour shortfall of 500,000 workers by 2020, India will have up to 47 million unemployed, most of them young and educated.' (AIM Media Release 2 March 2004)

In 2004/05 skilled migration visas issued to citizens of India covered a range of occupations in demand. In addition to IT professions, the top 10 occupations in demand filled by migrants from India were:

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|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. accountants | 6. nurses |
| 2. toolmakers | 7. cooks |
| 3. metal machinists | 8. civil engineers |
| 4. refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanics | 9. hairdressers |
| 5. fitters | 10. motor mechanics |

OTHER FACTS ABOUT INDIA

Capital (2003 est.):	New Delhi, 17,037,900 (metro. area), 10,203,700 (city proper)
Largest cities:	Bombay (Mumbai), 17,012,100 (metro. area), 12,383,100 (city proper); Calcutta (Kolkata), 14,090,200 (metro. area), 4,760,800 (city proper); Bangalore, 4,461,100; Madras (Chennai), 4,382,100; Ahmedabad, 3,653,700; Hyderabad, 3,585,600; Kanpur, 2,631,800
Principal languages:	Hindi (official), English (official), Bengali, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Kannada, Assamese, Sanskrit, Sindhi (all recognized by the constitution). Dialects, 1,600+
Ethnicity/race:	Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)
Religions:	Hindu 81.3%, Islam 12%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other (including Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis) 2.5%
Literacy rate:	60% (2003 est.)
Economic summary:	GDP/PPP (2004 est.): \$3.319 trillion; per capita \$3,100. Real growth rate: 6.2%. Inflation: 4.2%. Unemployment: 9.2%. Arable land: 54%. Agriculture: rice, wheat, oilseed, cotton, jute, tea, sugarcane, potatoes; cattle, water buffalo, sheep, goats, poultry; fish. Labour force: 482.2 million; agriculture 60%, services 23%, industry 17% (1999).
Industries:	textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining, petroleum, machinery, software.
Natural resources:	coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land.
Exports:	\$69.18 billion (f.o.b., 2004 est.): textile goods, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, chemicals, leather manufactures.
Imports:	\$89.33 billion (f.o.b., 2004 est.): crude oil, machinery, gems, fertilizer, chemicals.
Major trading partners:	U.S., UAE, Hong Kong, UK, China, Germany, Belgium (2003).