

Why Consider India as a Strategic Country?*

- “India is a rich and exotic prize. It’s booming high-tech service sector and tens of millions of affluent consumers have already convinced many of the world’s business people that India is on the brink of replicating the astonishing burst of growth that transformed China from poor-house to power-house in little more than two decades.” The Indian economy has grown over 7% per year for the last four years.
- India is the world’s largest friendly democracy in a strategic region.
- India is the second most populous nation on earth, and is expected to overtake China to take the top spot.
- India has more Muslims than any country other than Indonesia.
- India’s booming economy has enhanced its commercial attraction, and the Confederation of Indian Industry’s publicity campaign at the 2006 World Economic Forum had as its slogan “India everywhere.”
- “Although it has experienced tremendous economic growth, India is a land where gangs of emaciated laborers dig trenches to lay fiber-optic cables by candlelight. India’s economic boom has yet to reach many of the two-thirds of its people who live in the countryside.”
- India has maintained stability—it has proven mechanisms for the peaceful transfer of power and the ability to withstand terrible internal conflict for the most part.
- India will remain younger and more dynamic well into the middle of the 21st century—in contrast to what China may do with its one-child policy.
- Bird flu has been found in poultry flocks in India and there is great concern for the number of HIV-AIDS cases in the country.
- India’s growing economy has a desperate hunger for energy and, because of its reliance on dirty coal, risks becoming, in the words of Jacques Chirac, France’s president, “a chimney for greenhouse gases.” Helping India to fuel itself more cleanly is a global imperative.
- India is experiencing a “reverse brain drain.”

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