

Myanmar



I Demographic features of country

Early history of Myanmar began with the founding of the first capital of the Myanmar Kings at Tagaung, 100 miles up-river from Mandalay, reputed to have been thriving during the 5th Century B.C. The Pyu Civilization which followed flourished in the Ayeyawady valley from Tagaung to Pyay (former Prome) in the 1st Century B.C., and reached a high level of economic, social and cultural development. Myanmar's greatness in history dates back to 11th Century. There were three golden periods in Myanmar history, King Anawrahta consolidated the whole country into the First Myanmar Empire in Bagan (1044 AD- 1077 AD). The Bagan Empire encompassed the area of the present-day Myanmar and the entire Menam Valley in Thailand and lasted two centuries. The Bagan Dynasty collapsed with the invasion of the Mongols under Kublai Khan in the 13th Century. The Second Myanmar Empire of the Toungoo Period (1551 A.D-1581 AD) was founded by King Bayint Naung; and King Alaungpaya founded the Third Myanmar Empire in 1752. It was during the zenith of the Konbaung Dynasty that the British moved into Myanmar. Myanmar became a British colony after three Anglo-Myanmar Wars in 1825, 1852 and 1885. During the World War II, Myanmar was occupied by the Japanese from 1942 till the return of the Allied Forces in 1945. Myanmar regained the status of a "Sovereign Independent State" on 4th January, 1948, after 123 years of British colonial administration.

Capital: Rangoon

Population: 47,382,633 (estimated by CIA)

Age Structure:

0-14	years:	26.4%	(male	6,335,236/female	6,181,216)
15-64	years:	68.5%	(male	16,011,723/female	16,449,626)
65 years and over:		5.1%	(male	1,035,853/female	1,368,979) (2006 est.)

Ethnic Group: Burman 68%, Shan 9%, Karen 7%, Rakhine 4%, Chinese 3%, Indian 2%, Mon 2%, other 5%

Religion: Buddhist 89%, Christian 4% (Baptist 3%, Roman Catholic 1%), Muslim 4%, animist 1%, other 2%

II Indian Diaspora**Profile and Size of Indian Diaspora:**

It is estimated that **size of Indian diaspora is about 2 percent (945,000)** of total Burmese's population. Though HLCID report that size of Indian diaspora is 29,02,000 , various research studies indicated that Indian diaspora is not larger than one million.

It is estimated that there has been depilation in size of Indian immigrants between 1950-1970 periods, since a sizable Indian diaspora returned to India and many choose to migrate in country like Thailand. By 1972, some 200,000 people of Indian origin had been forced out of the country as a result of the economy's nationalization by Ne Win's "socialist" government. Their wholesale and retail businesses were taken away from them without compensation and they were given 175 kyat each to return to India. Many Indian businessmen still in Burma hope that better relations between the two countries will guarantee their economic security. Both they and Burmese of Indian origin now settled in India have been partly behind the push for improved ties.

Brief history of Migration:

Indians started settling down in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) as early as 1852 and the present residents have been here for more than four generations though between 200,000 and 400,000 PIOs are still stateless. This is because they do not have the documents required by the Burmese Citizenship Law of 1982 to prove their citizenship. During British rule, the Indian community flourished in Myanmar, dominating the civil services, education and trade. Indians came from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra, either to trade or to work in the agricultural sector. However, when Myanmar became independent in January 1948, prime minister U Nu's land reforms policy took back land belonging to PIOs. The Indian exodus, started in the 50s, gained momentum after the 1962 coup when the military took over under General Ne Win. The migration of Indians to Myanmar during the colonial era and their role in the commercial sphere contributed to commercial relations between the two colonies. Up to the 1960s, India was a major trading partner of Myanmar.

However, the balance of trade was in favour of Myanmar due to large imports of rice by India.

Diaspora Relations:

Indian Diaspora residing in Myanmar do not have strong link with India but at various occasions PIOs has expressed their feeling and love for their mother land. Military junta of Myanmar has been detrimental in building the relation with Indian diaspora.

Illegal Migration from Myanmar to India:

India share a thousand kilometer long border with Myanmar with three check points but the incidence of illegal migrants has increased over the years.

To curb illegal migration, On January 21, 1994, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to increase cooperation between the civilian border authorities of the two countries to prevent "illegal and insurgent activities".

A further bilateral agreement was signed to regularize and promote border trade, which officially resumed on April 12, 1995.