

Country Brief- Yemen



I Demographic Features of the Country:

Republic of Yemen is located at SW Asia, at the southern edge of the Arabian peninsula. The present nation of Yemen was formed in 1990, when the Yemen Arab Republic (the former Yemen or Northern Yemen) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (the former Southern Yemen) were unified. Yemen is bordered on the north by Saudi Arabia, on the east by Oman, on the south by the Gulf of Aden, and on the west by the Red Sea. Yemen is the most populous country on the Arabian Peninsula.

The great majority of the population is Arab (90%); some are Afro-Arab. Minorities include Indians, Somalis, and Europeans. Islam is the main religion. The north of Yemen is nearly 100% Muslim, both Sunni and Shiite; the south is

predominantly Muslim, but also has Christians and Hindus. Between 1948 and 1950 about 50,000 Yemeni Jews emigrated to Israel. Arabic is the nation's principal language. The tribal social structure is still prevalent in the country, although its importance diminishes along the coast, due to more foreign contact.

North Yemen became independent of the Ottoman Empire in 1918. The British, who had set up a protectorate area around the southern port of Aden in the 19th century, withdrew in 1967 from what became South Yemen. Three years later, the southern government adopted a Marxist orientation. The massive exodus of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis from the south to the north contributed to two decades of hostility between the states. The two countries were formally unified as the Republic of Yemen in 1990. A southern secessionist movement in 1994 was quickly subdued. In 2000, Saudi Arabia and Yemen agreed to a delimitation of their border

Capital: Sanna

Population: 20,727,063 (July 2005 est.)

Age structure: 0-14 years: 46.5% (male 4,905,831/female 4,727,177)
15-64 years: 50.8% (male 5,364,711/female 5,172,811)
65 years and over: 2.7% (male 274,166/female 282,367) (2005 est.)

Ethnic groups: predominantly Arab; but also Afro-Arab, South Asians, Europeans

Economy:

Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the Arab world, has reported strong growth since 2000, but its economic fortunes depend mostly on oil. Yemen has embarked on an IMF-supported structural adjustment program designed to modernize and streamline the economy, which has led to substantial foreign debt relief and restructuring. Yemen has worked to maintain tight control over spending and to implement additional components of the IMF program, but a high population growth rate and internal political dissension complicate the

government's task. Plans include a diversification of the economy, encouragement of tourism, and more efficient use of scarce water resources.

Labor force: 5.98 million (2004 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: most people are employed in agriculture and herding; services, construction, industry, and commerce account for less than one-fourth of the labor force

II Indian Diaspora

1. Brief history of Diaspora:

Yemen and India has deep-rooted historical, cultural and trade relations. British has incorporated the port town of Aden into the British Empire in 1839 as a sentinel to guard the southern entrance to the Red Sea. Britain administered it from the then Bombay Presidency. During that period, many British finally withdrew from Aden in 1967, mainly from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra. When British withdrew from Yemen, it resulted in the hasty departure of many Indian either to India or some other country. But a large number belonging to the Bohra, Khoja and Kachchi communities decided to remain behind and gradually became Yemeni citizens. Recently many have gone

2. Profile of Indian Diaspora

It is estimated that presently there are about 1 lakh Indians comprising skilled and white collar professionals. Indian expatriates in Yemen, mainly hospital personnel, professionals, academic, skilled and semi-skilled workers, are estimated about 8,000.

3. Geographical spread of the Indian Diaspora

The Indians are mainly concentrated in and around the relatively bigger towns like Aden, Sana'a, Mukalla, Haraz, Seyun, Taiz. Many of them are

into high skilled profession like academics. There are nurses, engineers and other paramedical staff along with semiskilled labour and housemaids.

4. Known Distinguished Diaspora

Not known but can be explore with help of Indian consulate in Yemen.

5. Concerns and Problems of Indian Diaspora

There are labour issues though rate of migration of unskilled labour is limited.

6. Diaspora Publications

Not known but can be explore with help of consulate in Yemen.

7. Diaspora Relations

Indians are in minority in the country but relationship with other communities is not known. The historical ties between India and Yemen are confirmed by the fact that even today there are about one hundred thousand persons of Yemeni origin in India in Andhra Pradesh and an equal number of people of Indian origin in Yemen, particularly in the South and the East of Yemen. Yemeni traders were intermediaries for Indian trade with the Roman empire.

India provides 40 scholarships every year through ICCR to Yemeni students and 50 training slots under the ITEC programme.

8. Local Laws affecting Indian Diaspora

Yet to explore

9. Diaspora Associations

Yet to explore