

SAMPLE

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES

The White Tiger

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AUTHOR NOTES

Aravind Adiga was born in Madras, which is now called Chennai, in 1974. One grandfather was a chairman of the Karnataka Bank, and one was a doctor and Congress Party politician.

Adiga grew up in Mangalore and was a student at St. Aloysius High School – a school run by the Jesuit order of the Roman Catholic Church. He attended Columbia and Oxford universities, where he studied English literature. After university, Adiga worked as a journalist, publishing work as a correspondent with Time Magazine, and with the Financial Times.

His first novel, *The White Tiger*, was published in 2008 and was named a New York Times Bestseller. It was also awarded the Booker Prize, one of the world's richest literary prizes, in 2008. Adiga has subsequently published two other books: *Between the Assassinations*, a collection of 12 interlinked short stories, and the novel *Last Man in the Tower*.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Republic of India, geographically forming the largest part of the 'sub-continent' in south Asia, is the seventh-largest country in the world by area, and the second-most populous country with more than 1.2 billion people. It is governed by a national parliament under the Constitution of India, and is a representative democracy. It is the most populous democracy in the world – a general election in India is the world's largest human event. India is a federation, with a national government and 29 State governments and 7 Territories.

India does not have a national language. While the Constitution recognises 21 'scheduled' languages, Hindi has the largest number of speakers and is the official language of government. However, English is widely spoken in business and public administration, and is also important in education, especially at tertiary level. English is regarded as a 'subsidiary official language' by the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs.

India has the world's 9th largest economy, which is one of the world's fastest growing. The country has been opening its economy to the global free market since 1991. Major industries include textiles, telecommunications, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, food processing, steel, transport equipment, cement, mining, petroleum, machinery, and software. Its economy is recognized as innovative and ahead of even some advanced economies. It has 7 of the world's top 15 information technology outsourcing companies. India's telecommunications industry is the world's fastest-growing, with the 3rd largest smartphone market in the world after China and the USA – it added 227 million subscribers in 2010–11. India's automotive industry is the world's 2nd fastest growing. The pharmaceutical industry is one of the important emerging markets for the world's industry and is expected to reach nearly \$50 billion by 2020.

India faces numerous socio-economic challenges. India has the largest concentration of people living below the international poverty line of US\$1.25/day as set by the World Bank, although the numbers have fallen from 60% in 1981 to 25% in 2011. An estimated 44% of India's children under 5 years of age are underweight and suffer from chronic malnutrition; in many states up to 70% are anaemic. There is a Mid-Day Meal Scheme, which provides free lunches to primary school children to try to deal with malnutrition. Economic inequality is a significant problem, especially between the wealthier and poorer states. Corruption is believed to have increased significantly – a report estimates that illegal capital flows since independence in 1946 amounts to US\$462 billion.

One report estimates that India's GDP could pass the USA's by 2045. India's economy is growing at around 8% per year, and this makes it one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. Major economic growth areas are the young and increasing working-age population, manufacturing supported by rising education and engineering skills, and a growing consumer market supported by an increasing middle class. One ratings agency reports that India's economic problems include inflation pressures, weak public finances, and the ineffectiveness of the government. Another ratings agency has reported that declining economic growth and political problems in economic policy-making could cause problems.