

## Brief History

### Symbolism

The **lotus** represents long life, honour, and **good fortune**. Even though the lotus grows in mud, it remains pure and produces beautiful flowers. Thus, it symbolizes **purity** of heart and mind.



Peacocks symbolize **grace, pride, and beauty**. Peacocks are often used in Indian mythology and folk stories.

It is respected in India for its **strength** and grace, as well as its incredible **power**. The Indian tiger is also called the Royal Bengal Tiger.

## Brief History

### India as a Nation

- A 6,000 Years old History
- The Indus Valley Civilization 1500 B.C.
- Aryans and the Hindu Religion
- 567 B.C. – Birth of Gautama Buddha
- 326 B.C. – Alexander the Great
- The Golden Age – Maurya and Gupta Dynasty



## Brief History

### The Golden Bird....



## Brief History

### The Mughal Era

- Started in 1526 - lasted for 3 Centuries
- Major Contributions
  - Architecture
  - Trade
  - Cuisine
  - Infrastructure
  - Social Reforms



## Brief History

### The British Invasion

- The East India Company 1600-1858
- The Company's Rule 1858-1947
- The Indian National Movement
- The British Raj



## Brief History

### The Divide & Rule Policy..

- 1940 Mohammad Ali Jinnah submitted the Lahore Resolution
- "The Muslims and the Hindus belong to two different religious philosophies: they neither intermarry nor interdine.... Muslims are a nation and according to any definition of a nation they must have their homelands, their territory, their state."



## Geography

### The Indian Subcontinent



- 7th largest country in the world with 3,287,263 km<sup>2</sup>
- Coastline: 7517 km

- Himalaya (north)
- Largest river: Ganges Ganges-Brahmaputra (agricultural)
- Thar desert (west)
- Tropical with rainforest (south)

#### Main cities:

- New Dehli
- Mumbai (Bombay)
- Bangalore
- Kolkata
- Chennai (Madras)

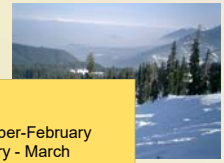
## Climate

### Very different climatic zones

six major climatic subtypes reaching from...

#### seasons

Winter:	December-February
Spring:	February - March
Summer or pre monsoon:	April - June
Monsoon:	July - August
Autumn:	September-November



ers in the north..

...desert in the west.

...Humid tropical regions with rainforest in the southwest.



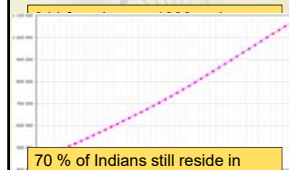
## Which is Indian National Animal



## Population

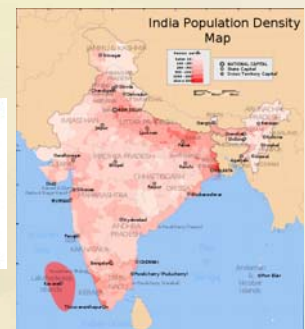
### 2nd largest population in the world

large population growth:  
1961: ~ 450 millions  
2008: 1,147,995,904  
(China 1,321,851,888 )



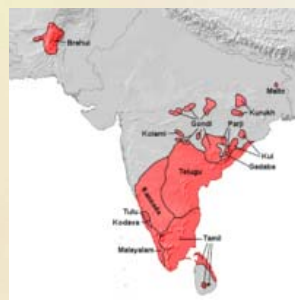
70 % of Indians still reside in rural areas  
But: migration to larger cities

→ dramatic increase of cities



## Ethnic groups

### Indo-Aryan and Dravidian people



## Neighbours

### Kashmir conflict

Dispute over the Kashmir territory by India, Pakistan, China and the people of Kashmir

**India:** Kashmir is an "integral part" of India

**Pakistan:** Kashmir is a disputed territory whose final status must be determined by the people of Kashmir

**Kashmiri independence groups:** Kashmir should be independent

**China:** controls 20% of Kashmir since 1962



## Which is Indian National Bird?



## The Culture

From philosophy to popular media, from literature to recreation

With over one billion people, 21 different languages, and a compelling history rich with dynamism and determination, India is a country like no other.

Indian culture mirrors the eclecticism fostered within its borders through magical colours, sounds, sights, and smells and is sure to evoke excitement amongst the most stoic of visitors.



## The Culture

Here's what some literates have to say about India

"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grand mother of tradition. Our most valuable and most astirctive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only!" --**Mark Twain**

"We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made." -- **Albert Einstein**

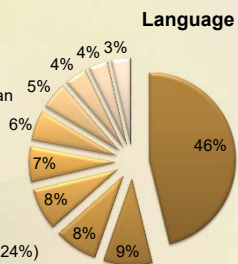
## Language

...not so simple in India...

India has 21 officially recognised languages which is only 2 less than the European Union!

Under constitution, Hindi and English are official languages of the state

Two major linguistic families: Indo-Aryan (74%) and Dravidian (24%)



- Hindi
- Bengali
- Telugu
- Marathi
- Tamil
- Urdu
- Gujarati
- Kannada
- Malayalam
- Oriya

## The Culture

Communication

Indian communication tends to be indirect and a person's words may only convey a fraction of what is being said.

Directness is considered rude.

Thus, the rest of the message is delivered via tone, body language, past history, and often, by what is **not** said.

In Indian culture, it is essential to show proper respect.

Polite answer

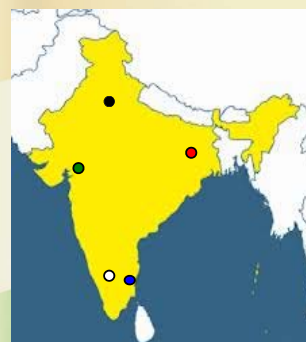
Yes

≠

Real answer

Yes No Maybe We'll see

## Lets locate the Famous cities



Delhi

Chennai

Mumbai

Bangalore

Calcutta



## Multiplication Table

- Normal Indian Children learn

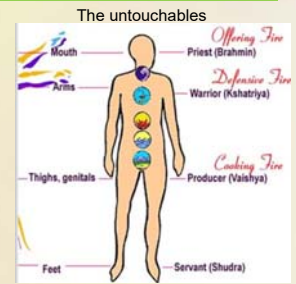
- $1 \times 1 = 1$  to  $99 \times 99 = 9801$
- $1 \times 1 = 1$  to  $20 \times 20 = 400$
- $1 \times 1 = 1$  to  $12 \times 12 = 144$
- $1 \times 1 = 1$  to  $9 \times 9 = 81$



## Society and Family

### Social dimensions - The caste system

- Caste is the Indian class system.
- Rejected by Hinduism.
- Abolished by law in 1949, but it still remains a significant force throughout India.
- A soul can be born into a different caste in the process of reincarnation.
- Marriages between castes are rare.



- Brahmins** (Priest and educated class)
- Kshatriya** (Professional, governing and military class)
- Vaisahya** (Landowners, farmers and merchants)
- Sudra** (Peasants and labourers)

A life body within the social body

## The Culture

### Family and friends

- One of the most important parts of Indian culture is relationship (who you know).
- Marriages are often arranged by the parents.
- Older people are called Auntie and Uncle while people of the same age or younger are called Brother or Sister.
- Friendship in India is almost always relegated to people of the same gender, and it tends to run much deeper than in the West, with more physical affection shown toward each other.
- Friendship between guys and girls who are not related is considered inappropriate.

## Religion

### Key facts

- India is one of the most religious countries in the world with large and active populations of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists and Christians.
- Unlike in the West where one's faith is considered "private," Indians tend to display their religion prominently.
- A person's name, occupation, style of dress, marriage partner and diet are all largely based on religion.
- People who are irreligious are looked upon rather suspiciously



## Religion

Religion	Population	Percent
All religions	1,028,610,328	100.00%
Hindus	827,578,868	80.456%
Muslims	138,188,240	13.434%
Christians	24,080,016	2.341%
Sikhs	19,215,730	1.868%
Buddhists	7,955,207	0.773%
Jains	4,225,053	0.411%
Others	6,639,626	0.645%
Religion not stated	727,588	0.07%

## Religion

### Hinduism

### Religion for Hindus is:

- A way of life
- A heritage
- A tradition
- A way of thinking
- A way to live in this life which insures the new incarnation.



Cow - sacred animal, symbol of Mother Earth

- vindial/ teep = the wearer is a hindu.

Sadhu

≠

Guru

→ Holy men. They give up their homes and possessions in order to live a life of meditation and prayer. Other Hindus provide them with food and money. (≠ Shiva ; III Vishnu)

→ Spiritual teachers and guides in the religions of India. They teach mantras and techniques of meditation.

## Religion

Hinduism

- **Generates** - Brahma
- **Observes** - Vishnu
- **Destroys** - Shiva

### 3 main concepts in Hinduism

- **Dharma** = Duty in life
- **Karma** = good/bad according to the proportion in which one's fulfilled his Dharma
- **Reincarnation**



Brahma – Vishnu - Shiva

## Religion

Hinduism



### Aum

- Waking, dream and deep sleep
- Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva
- The three Vedas (Rig, Yajur and Sama)
- The three worlds (Bhuh, Bhuvah, Suvah)

The Lord is all these and beyond.

**AUM** symbolizes everything - the means and the goal of life, the world and the truth behind it, the material and the Sacred, all form and the Formless.

The first sound of the Almighty  
Oneness with the supreme

## Religion

Islam

- Major impact on culture, cuisine, music and architecture.
- One of the largest populations of Muslims in the world, despite their being a minority of 12%.

### 5 Pillars in Islam:

- - Creed
- - Namaz (5/day/Mecca)
- - Ramadan (fast 1 mth/year)
- - Almsgiving
- - Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)



## Religion

Christianity

- Brought to India in AD 52 by Thomas, the "doubting" disciple of Jesus.
- Spread in Kerala(S), Mizoram, Nagaland (NE)
- Christianity is widely recognized for its humanitarian influence due to the work of people like Mother Theresa.



## Religion

Sikhism

- The Sikh religion was born in India.
- Founded by Guru Nanak Singh (monotheistic faith that abolished caste distinctions).
- All Sikhs are expected to eat together at the temple, or *gurdwara*, and to take the same name: Singh for men and Kaur for women.
- Each Sikh man displays his religious identity with five symbols, known as the Five K's in Punjabi: *uncut hair covered by a turban, a comb, a steel bracelet, short breeches, and a sword.*



## Religion

Other religions

- **Buddhism** - has few followers in India, except among the large Tibetan community.



• **Jainism** - began in India as a sub-sect of Hinduism. Its followers practice a strict policy of non-violence, or *ahimsa*, and shun the use of any animal product for food or clothing.



- **The Zoroastrian religion** came from Persia. Its small but prominent group of followers in India are called *Parsis*.

## The Culture

Culturally Rich Inventions

- The digit zero and the numbering system (Aryabhatta)



- Chess



- Algebra, Trigonometry, and Calculus



- The decimal system



- The game of Snakes and Ladders



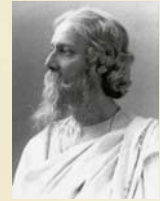
- The value of  $\pi$



## Literature

To be or not to be...

- The earliest Indian works were orally transmitted
- The first Asian Nobel laureate was India's Rabindranath Tagore who was awarded the Nobel Prize for his compilation of poems, 'Gitanjali' in 1913
- The oldest relics discovered date back to 1500-1200 BCE And were revealed to be Sanskrit hymns
- Indian poetry is often rooted in the deep religious movements and musical traditions of the country and during the Indian Freedom Movement served as a medium to vocalise nationalism and protest



## The Culture

Preeminent figures

### Mahatma Gandhi

Father of the nation - embodiment of Non Violence



### Srinivasa Ramanujam

Great Indian Mathematician (postulated and proved over 3452 theorems)

### C. V. Raman

1930 Nobel Laureate in Physics – Scattering of light and Raman effect



## The Culture

Preeminent figures



### Har Gobind Khorana

1968 – Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Worked on the interpretation of the genetic code

### Sbbramanyan Chandrasekhar

1983 - Nobel Laureate in Physics

Worked on structure and evolution of stars



### Mother Theresa

1979 Nobel Laureate for Peace

## The Culture

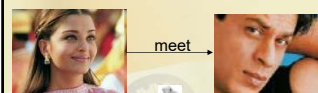
Social hierarchy and the role of women

- The divorce rate in India is a mere 1.1% in comparison to 50% for the United States
- Arranged marriages are still quite prevalent in modern day Indian culture and are based upon such characteristics as: height, caste status, personal values, age (amongst others)
- Women's issues seldom appear in popular media and account for 7-14% of national coverage



## The Culture

Leisure



meet



=



+



3h later



=



Chai drinking along with conversation (Cricket, politics, Bollywood) and people-watching.

**Bollywood:**  
- long musical drama-comedy-action-romance in which:

## Clothing

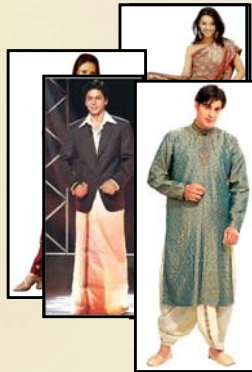
Salwar Kameez !

Indian women have a variety of different apparel and styles to choose from, but three of the most common garments are:

1. Sari
2. Salwar Kameez
3. Choli

Men too have many options and here are but three samples:

1. Dhoti
2. Lungi
3. Kurta



## Cuisine

How to eat Indian food

- Indian food is often eaten with the hands
- considered impolite to allow the food to pass the first joint of the fingers
- fingers should never touch the mouth directly
- only the right hand may be used in eating
- spoon is provided for soup, but the bread may even be used to eat that
- Meat may be eaten with a knife and fork, but it will more often be served pre-cut, so it may be easily managed by the fingers



## Cuisine

How to eat Indian food



## Recreation

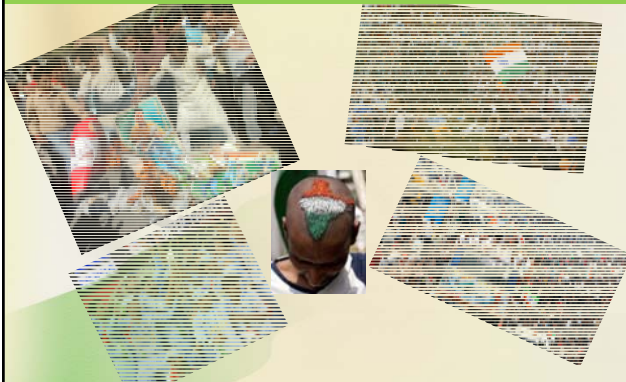
Sports, Sports, Sports

- Official national sport is Hockey
- Indigenous sports include: kabaddi and
- Chess was invented in India
- Many indoor and outdoor games such as snakes and ladders, playing cards, polo etc.
- Most popular sport: cricket



## Cricket

Pure Passion.....



## Main Professions

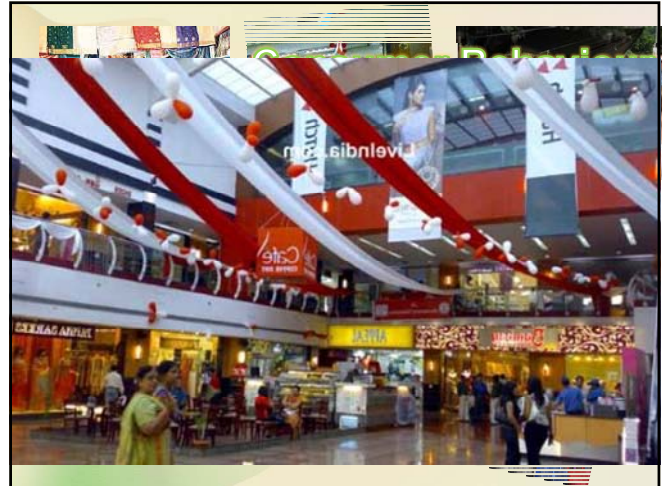
From Dreams to Reality....

- Business
- Engineer
- MBA
- Doctor
- Accountants



## Education System

- Elementary Education – Fundamental Right
- More than 1700 Colleges, 350 20 Institutes of National Importance
- But Literacy Rate – 65.38%
- Female Literacy – 65.38%
- Urban Literacy – 80.3%



## Contrasts

Traditional vs. Modern



Ferrari vs..



Western modern life vs..



Modern appartments vs..



Oxcart



Tradional families



Slums.

## Caste System



- **Strict and distinct class system outlawed but still practiced.**
- **A person is locked in their caste throughout this lifetime.**
- **You are not to marry outside of this caste. Still largely arranged.**
- **Distinctive names, dress, and even language may distinguish castes**

## Caste Levels



- **Brahman – traditional caste of priests, religious teachers, and judges**
- **Kshatriyas – traditional warrior and politician class**
- **Vaiasyas – Merchant class and land owning farmers**
- **Shudras – common laborers**

## The “Untouchables”



- Also known as “dalits” literally mean oppressed.
- Traditionally prevented from associating with any other caste.
- Did the most unclean of work including cleaning sewage from streets and handling dead animals.
- Approximately 160-180 million in India today.

## Traditional Patriarchal S

- Largely male dominated
- Extended families still important
- Arranged marriages still common
- Dowry still paid by brides families
- Marriage for love becoming more common, especially within the cities.

