

PREFACE

Mother and motherland are greater than heaven! I LOVE MY INDIA. Know not what good I prayed in my previous birth and know not what yoga I might have performed before, I have been blessed to be born in this heavenly land. Not sure what precious flowers I worshipped with I have been blessed to be born to this mother land. I sincerely pray god to be in India until my death and to be born in India in future births. Let my life bloom like a flower and spread fragrance all around neighbours, kith and kin, dear ones, friends, and all good ones, feeding the nectar of happiness. Let the smile on your face remain unto the end and that itself is the fulfillment of life. How long you live is not important but how happy you lived is all that matters.

Our motherland - India is a land of diversities and among all these diversities we see unity. Unity binds us together, which makes us feel as one. This encourages us to sacrifice anything and everything for our motherland. This is the uniqueness of our country. We are like different beads joined together by invisible string.

I profusely thank readers of my book for having motivated me to write book after book on different topics and it is a real pleasure to write about our great nation " I LOVE MY INDIA " Your best wishes coupled with blessings have harmonized my heart into a melody of love.

I welcome your suggestions, critics, brickbats, omissions if any to improve my presentation. If you liked the contents of the book, please suggest your friends, relatives & well wishers to read which enhances the patriotism and love to our beloved nation.

I am indeed very glad to release this book "I LOVE MY INDIA" on 66th Independence day of our INDIA.

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What people have to say on India

"If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India!"

French scholar Romaine Rolland

"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human spices, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grand mother of tradition. Our most valuable and most astrictive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only!"

Mark Twain

"We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made!"

Albert Einstein

"If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions, I should point to India"

Max Mueller

"In India, I found a race of mortals living upon the Earth, but not adhering to it, inhabiting cities, but not being fixed to them, possessing everything, but possessed by nothing"

Apollonius Tyanaeus

"So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone, either by man or nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his rounds. Nothing seems to have been forgotten, nothing overlooked."

Mark Twain

"She (India) has left indelible imprints on one fourth of the human race in the course of a long succession of centuries. She has the right to reclaim ... her place amongst the great nations summarizing and symbolizing the spirit of humanity. From Persia to the Chinese sea, from the icy regions of Siberia to Islands of

Java and Borneo, India has propagated her beliefs, her tales, and her civilization!"

Sylvia Levi

"India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border!"

Hu Shih, former Ambassador of China to USA

"India was the mother of our race and Sanskrit the mother of Europe's languages. She was the mother of our philosophy, mother through the Arabs, of much of our mathematics, mother through Buddha, of the ideals embodied in Christianity, mother through village communities of self-government and democracy. Mother India is in many ways the mother of us all." **Will Durant**

"Civilizations have arisen in other parts of the world. In ancient and modern times, wonderful ideas have been carried forward from one race to another...But mark you, my friends; it has been always with the blast of war trumpets and the march of embattled cohorts. Each idea had to be soaked in a deluge of blood..... Each word of power had to be followed by the groans of millions, by the wails of orphans, by the tears of widows. This, many other nations have taught; but India for thousands of years peacefully existed. Here activity prevailed when even Greece did not exist... Even earlier, when history has no record, and tradition dares not peer into the gloom of that intense past, even from until now, ideas after ideas have marched out from her, but every word has been spoken with a blessing behind it and peace before it. We, of all nations of the world, have never been a conquering race, and that blessing is on our head, and therefore we live....!"

Swami Vivekananda, Great Indian Philosopher

Whenever I have read any part of the Vedas, I have felt that some unearthly and unknown light illuminated me. In the great teaching of the Vedas, there is no touch of sectarianism. It is of all ages, climbs, and nationalities and is the royal road for the

attainment of the Great Knowledge. When I read it, I feel that I am under the spangled heavens of a summer night.

Henry David Thoreau, American Thinker & Author

In the great books of India, an empire spoke to us, nothing small or unworthy, but large, serene, consistent, the voice of an old intelligence, which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the questions that exercise us.

R.W. Emerson, American Author

“There are some parts of the world that, once visited, get into your heart and won’t go. For me, India is such a place. When I first visited, I was stunned by the richness of the land, by its lush beauty and exotic architecture, by its ability to overload the senses with the pure, concentrated intensity of its colors, smells, tastes, and sounds... I had been seeing the world in black & white and, when brought face-to-face with India, experienced everything re-rendered in brilliant Technicolor.”

Keith Bellows, National Geographic Society

“It is impossible not to be astonished by India. Nowhere on Earth does humanity present itself in such a dizzying, creative burst of cultures and religions, races and languages. Enriched by successive waves of migration and marauders from distant lands, every one of them left an indelible imprint which was absorbed into the Indian way of life. Every aspect of the country presents itself on a massive, exaggerated scale, worthy in comparison only to the superlative mountains that overshadow it. It is this variety which provides a breathtaking ensemble for experiences that is uniquely Indian. Perhaps the only thing more difficult than to be indifferent to India would be to describe or understand India completely. There are perhaps very few nations in the world with the enormous variety that India has to offer. Modern day India represents the largest democracy in the world with a seamless picture of unity in diversity unparalleled anywhere else.

A Rough Guide to India

BE PROUD TO BE INDIAN:

Be proud to be Indian, consider all aspects of human want, you will realise India is the best country, to lead a peaceful and happy life:

1. Indian history dates back to least 4500 years.
2. India is a large country in Southern Asia.
3. India has the world's second largest population.
4. India ranks seventh in the world, in area.
5. India is blessed with one of the world's richest heritage.
6. India's social and religious structures have withstood all tests.
7. India has 14 major languages and more then 1000 minor ones. India belongs to many different ethnic groups, casts, and religions.
8. India has great natural resources.
9. India has federal Republic form of government.
10. India is world's largest democracy.
11. India's exports comprise 7500 commodities.
12. India is the home of extraordinary range of wild life.
13. India never invaded any country in her last 100000 years of history.
14. When many cultures were only nomadic forest dwellers over 5000 years ago, Indians established Harappan culture in Sindhu Valley (Indus Valley Civilization)
15. The name 'India' is derived from the River Indus, the valleys around which were the home of the early settlers. The Aryan worshippers referred to the river Indus as the Sindhu.

16. The Persian invaders converted it into Hindu. The name 'Hindustan' combines Sindu and Hindu and thus refers to the land of the Hindus.
17. Chess was invented in India. India is the birthplace of chess. The original word for "chess" is the Sanskrit chaturanga, meaning "four members of an army"—which were mostly likely elephants, horses, chariots, and foot soldiers.
18. Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus are studies, which originated in India.
19. The 'Place Value System' and the 'Decimal System' were developed in India in 100 B.C.
20. The World's First Granite Temple is the Brihadeswara Temple at Tanjavur, Tamil Nadu. The shikhara of the temple is made from a single 80-tonne piece of granite. This magnificent temple was built in just five years, (between 1004 AD and 1009 AD) during the reign of RajarajaChola.
21. India is the largest democracy in the world, the 6th largest Country in the world, and one of the most ancient civilizations.
22. The game of Snakes & Ladders was created by the 13th century poet saint Gyandev. It was originally called 'Mokshapat'. The ladders in the game represented virtues and the snakes indicated vices. The game was played with cowrie shells and dices. In time, the game underwent several modifications, but its meaning remained the same, i.e. good deeds take people to heaven and evil to a cycle of re-births.
23. The world's highest cricket ground is in Chail, Himachal Pradesh. Built in 1893 after leveling a hilltop, this cricket pitch is 2444 meters above sea level.
24. India has the largest number of Post Offices in the world.
25. The largest employer in the world is the Indian Railways, employing over a million people.

26. The world's first university was established in Takshila in 700 BC. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects. The University of Nalanda built in the 4th century was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.
27. Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to mankind. The Father of Medicine, Charaka, consolidated Ayurveda 2500 years ago.
28. India was one of the richest countries till the time of British rule in the early 17th Century. Christopher Columbus, attracted by India's wealth, had come looking for a sea route to India when he discovered America by mistake.
29. The Art of Navigation & Navigating was born in the river Sindh over 6000 years ago. The very word Navigation is derived from the Sanskrit word 'NAVGATIḤ'. The word navy is also derived from the Sanskrit word 'Nau'.
30. Bhaskaracharya rightly calculated the time taken by the earth to orbit the Sun hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart. According to his calculation, the time taken by the Earth to orbit the Sun was 365.258756484 days.
31. The value of "pi" was first calculated by the Indian Mathematician Budhayana, and he explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem. He discovered this in the 6th century, long before the European mathematicians.
32. Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus also originated in India. Quadratic Equations were used by Sridharacharya in the 11th century. The largest numbers the Greeks and the Romans used were 10^6 whereas Hindus used numbers as big as 10^{53} (i.e. 10 to the power of 53) with specific names as early as 5000 B.C.during the Vedic period. Even today, the largest used number is Terra: 10^{12} (10 to the power of 12).

33. Until 1896, India was the only source of diamonds in the world. (Source: Gemological Institute of America).
34. The Baily Bridge is the highest bridge in the world. It is located in the Ladakh valley between the Dras and Suru rivers in the Himalayan Mountains. It was built by the Indian Army in August 1982.
35. Sushruta is regarded as the Father of Surgery. Over 2600 years ago Sushruta & his team conducted complicated surgeries like cataract, artificial limbs, cesareans, fractures, urinary stones, plastic surgery and brain surgeries.
36. Usage of anesthesia was well known in ancient Indian medicine. Detailed knowledge of anatomy, embryology, digestion, metabolism, physiology, etiology, genetics and immunity is also found in many ancient Indian texts.
37. India exports software to 90 countries.
38. India is the birth place of the world's greatest religions – Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, are followed by 25% of the world's population.
39. Jainism and Buddhism were founded in India in 600 B.C. and 500 B.C. respectively.
40. Islam is India's and the world's second largest religion.
41. There are 300,000 active mosques in India, more than in any other country, including the Muslim world.
42. The oldest European church and synagogue in India are in the city of Cochin. They were built in 1503 and 1568 respectively.
43. Jews and Christians have lived continuously in India since 200 B.C. and 52 A.D. respectively .
44. The largest religious building in the world is Angkor Wat, a Hindu Temple in Cambodia built at the end of the 11th century.

45. The Vishnu Temple in the city of Tirupathi built in the 10th century, is the world's largest religious pilgrimage destination. Larger than either Rome or Mecca, an average of 30,000 visitors donate \$6 million (US) to the temple everyday.
46. Sikhism originated in the Holy city of Amritsar in Punjab. Famous for housing the Golden Temple, the city was founded in 1577.
47. Varanasi, also known as Benaras, was called "the Ancient City" when Lord Buddha visited it in 500 B.C., and is the oldest, continuously inhabited city in the world today.
48. India provides safety for more than 300,000 refugees originally from Sri Lanka, Tibet, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who escaped to flee religious and political persecution.
49. His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, runs his government in exile from Dharmashala in northern India.
50. Martial Arts were first created in India, and later spread to Asia by Buddhist missionaries.
51. Yoga has its origins in India and has existed for over 5,000 years.
52. The number system was invented in India. Aryabhatta invented the digit zero.
53. Sanskrit is considered as the mother of all language has taken birth in India. According to Forbes magazine, Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computer software.
54. Mogul emperors of India ruled unbroken succession from father to son for two hundred years, from 1526 to 1707.
55. India has the best family life in the entire world.
56. Indian people are kind charming and peace loving.

57. Indian food is most nutritious and delicious.
58. Indian soil is most fertile and has good vegetation.
59. Indian's respect women more than others in the world.
60. Indian scientist Prof.Jagadish Bose invented the wireless communication.
61. The first irrigation dam in the world was built in saurashtra area of India.
62. The founder of Sun Microsystems is Sri. A. VinodKhosla
63. The founder of Pentium chip 90% of today's computers run on is Sri A. VinodDahm
64. The founder and creator of Hotmail (Hotmail is world's No.1 web based email program)?isSri.A. Sabeer Bhatia.
65. First democracy to elect a woman Prime Minister.
66. India is the 7th Nuclear Power in the world.
67. India is the 5th largest Economy in the world.
68. India is the 4th nation in the world to have Nuclear Submarine.
69. India is the 5th to be in the multy billion doller Commerce Business.
70. The average age on Indian is 29 as against 37 in China, 48 in Japan and much more in Europe and USA.

I LOVE MY INDIA:

India is not a piece of earth, or a figure of speech, nor a fiction of the mind. It is a mighty Shakti, composed of the Shakti's of all the millions of units that make up the nation.' This Indian philosophy of life, whether it is called Sanatan Dharma or by any other name is my first love, said Sri Aurobindo the great Indian rishi.

The first thing a tourist or a visitor in India discovers is the warmth and hospitality of the Indian people. I was told by a American friend when he first visited India, from the airport, he took a taxi to the city center. Unfortunately for him, it was the day of the July 26, 2005 floods in the city. Soon his taxi was stuck in the traffic and the water level began mounting. Seeing his gloomy situation, an Indian family passing by, offered to take him and carried his luggage to their nearby home. They gave all the comfort and looked after him. When asked why they took so much care they said guests were treated as God, in the Hindu custom. He was wonder struck and enjoyed their hospitality.

Yet another Indian friend of mine was visiting Israel. His guest asked him: 'How does India work?' My friend was a bit surprised by the question, but before he could answer, his Israeli colleague told him: 'Here we work with our guts.'

Indian said the people work with dedication, devotion and with self satisfaction with out fear on any count.

The Indian Army Something has always amazed me: the untamable courage and abnegation of Indian jawans and officers, give us peaceful living with out any fear.

I love my India immensely and there are enough reasons behind this. I do belong to a land that is regarded as one of the cradles of human race. It is the land that was instrumental in development of humanity and several other spheres of human civilization. These include culture, language, astronomy, mathematics and others.

I have travelled all over the globe, may be I liked it as tourist but to live and lead a comfortable life, India is the best. India has been known for its universalism, liberalism or tolerance and conviction in the sacredness of human soul for centuries. And all these have influenced people a lot.

India is a magical land of peace and harmony. The world picture today is incomplete without India. India proudly hosts the largest

democracy and thus is the largest market for any company to trade. Almost all countries target India as the main source of income, by using her huge market. India has a very proud history and has been a proud mother to several legends whom the world respects still now. India has excelled in almost all fields. When it comes to literature, it is Rabindranath Tagore who preached all over the world.

When it comes to Architecture, India is the home of the wonder of the world in the form of TajMahal, Palace, Parks and Artistic houses etc., India is a place which is a very prime destination for tourists. Every single year, there are many tourists who flood from all directions of the compass to visit India. India is a rare gift of the Almighty who has mountains in the best form with the name of the Himalayas, lovely seas in the form of the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, brilliant waterfalls, smooth rivers and rough desert. India has almost everything that can be present. The land is more like a miniature globe.

India is a never ending source of brilliance in any field as well as natural resources. The population which was considered as a curse has been transformed to be a boon by educating them. The beautiful land which is known as the land of peace, the land of the great Mahatma Gandhi is indeed the best place to live in the entire world. The true essence of India lies in its people and their spirit of oneness.

India is a land of geographical diversity, a land where democracy and secularism are held at utmost importance. This is one country which has people of all various religions, castes and creed, speaking different languages and dialects all living together in harmony.

The best part about India is its diversity which makes it stand apart from the rest of the world. The warmth and the affection that the people of India have to offer in spite of all their differences is worth a mention. A friend of mine who is Muslim as child he

was made to drink milk of a Hindu woman who had lost her child and the bondage between them has grown and he respects the Hindu's and knows all about Hinduism in depth.

Another aspect that makes India unique is that one can experience the goodness of many different traditions in one country. The traditions and languages change and vary from place to place but what doesn't change is the friendly attitude of the people.

Therefore pride of India lies in our tradition and values that have been bestowed on us. We have a proud and a rich history, Culture and heritage and people all over the world come to our country to see and appreciate this. Indians are not just people with a heart of gold but they also have a mind which is well trained in the discipline they choose. The number of contributions in every field, be it science or mathematics are countless and worth a mention.

India follows democracy which emphasizes the fact that the country is governed by the representatives chosen by the people for their development. This is a country where agriculture is the major occupation, however now India is developing in all other fields.

There are many more reasons to love India the most important being India is our motherland, our country. We all are in a way emotionally attached to our Mother Nation. There are a lot many other reasons to love the country.

India is a country where one can find people of all castes, creed and religions live together in harmony and peace. The attitude of the people here is warm and welcoming. This is not all; the numerous traditions followed here have a lot to teach. The values and value system instilled in us by our elders make our upbringing worthwhile.

India is developing at a rapid rate, the Indian education system trains the students in every discipline which gives them a wider choice to choose the subjects they want to pursue their career.

India is one country where one learns to be multilingual. People here speak their regional languages as per the state, however at any national event they all are bound together by Hindi which is the national language. The people speak English and the tourist can manage to travel freely, unlike few other places in the globe.

Industrially India is now developing itself at a fast pace, specially in IT & BT fields, this has made it possible to provide jobs to many people. This country is a perfect match of the modern and the traditional values which fuse to get the best of both. People from all over the world come over and over again to India because there is so much to explore, see and learn.

No doubt those significant changes came after the Non Resident Indians began doing extremely well in the West. One could ask, why were Indians doing so well outside India and not in India?

It is probably because in India, creativity, an engrained Indian quality has been too stifled by bureaucratic rules and babus of all types. The Indian government is unfortunately a serial killer of creativity.

Unity in diversity

As said, India is a land of different cultures, heritages, many languages and religions. Despite the differences our India is united in its diversity.

The people of this country, its beautiful cultures, its languages, the places and the good heart of the Indians make us feel proud that we are born in such a beautiful land. Our mother India has been teaching her children different skills and talents such as sports, archery, defenses, music, dance, art, humanity, kindness, love, tenderness acting, other than the core subjects. When we have such a beautiful land to live in, then why will our heart not be filled with pride?

No doubt, India has many in built problems because of over population and many more factors. India can not be compared to a country which is very small and less populated. A country which is too large and has many religions, caste, creed has its own problems. When it is densely populated, there will be setbacks on cleanliness hinge etc., Over the years there will be change with continuing education.

My soul — India

This is a land of picturesque beauty, the crown of our pride, the land of diversities, the land of culture and style and it fills me with pride. We are like different beads joined together by an invisible string. Our country's legacy, history, deep-rooted value system binds us as one.

I love my country because India is a nation with unity in diversity. It is a proponent of peace. Peace especially through spirituality is a basic and unique quality of India. People from other nations are getting attracted towards India to achieve peace of mind. India is a land of festivals. Festivals like Diwali, Holi, do not belong to any one community but is celebrated by all.

Numerous languages and cuisines are also unique to India. Our Tricolor represents peace, prosperity and renunciation with the Ashoka Chakra being the wheel of law of Dharma. India is a democratic country, that is, it is by the people, of the people, for the people. We all have the right to express ourselves in building the Nation.

I am an Indian

India is the largest democracy in the world in the truest meaning of the word "democracy". India is secular. In the midst of various languages spoken, castes and customs the country remains united. You can travel from Kanyakumari to Himalayas as an 'Indian'. We have Free Press, Media, Judiciary, Election

Commission, C.V.C., N.H.R.C., Right to Information Act, Right to Education Act, Food Act (on the anvil) and more and all this fascinates me making me say, I am a happy and proud citizen of India. I would like to quote Nehru, "Our country is a very big country and there is a great deal to be done by all of us. If every one of us does his/her mite, then all mounts up and our country can prosper and go ahead."

A great salute to our national flag on the 66th Independence Day. It is a national festival that is celebrated with joy and happiness by all of us. India is the birth place of so many fairs and festivals. They represent our rich cultural heritage and help promote unity among all religions. A number of religious festivals like Dusserah, Christmas, Ramzan, and important national days like Independence Day, Republic Day and Children's Day are celebrated. Age-old traditions, customs, rituals, prayers, dresses, ornaments, dance and music forms, varieties of food items are unique features of festivals in India and attract many foreigners from different countries to visit India. I like our Indian festivals and feel proud to say that India celebrates numerous festivals.

Indian history:

The **history of India** begins with evidence of human activity of Homo sapiens as long as 75,000 years ago, or with earlier hominids including Homo erectus from about 500,000 years ago. The Indus Valley Civilization, which spread and flourished in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent from c. 3300 to 1300 BCE, was the first major civilization in India. A sophisticated and technologically advanced urban culture developed in the Mature Harappan period, from 2600 to 1900 BCE. This Bronze Age civilization collapsed before the end of the second millennium BCE and was followed by the Iron Age Vedic Civilization, which extended over much of the Indo-Gangetic plain and which witnessed the rise of major polities known as the Mahajanapadas.

In one of these kingdoms, Magadha, Mahavira and Gautama Buddha were born in the 5th or 6th century.

Most of the subcontinent was conquered by the Maurya Empire during the 3rd and 4th centuries BCE. It became fragmented, with various parts ruled by numerous Middle kingdoms for the next 1,500 years. This is known as the classical period of Indian history, during which time India has sometimes been estimated to have had the largest economy of the ancient and medieval world, with its huge population generating between one fourth and one third of the world's income up to the 18th century.

Much of northern and central India was united in the 4th century CE, and remained so for two centuries, under the Gupta Empire. This period, witnessing a Hindu religious and intellectual resurgence, is known among its admirers as the "Golden Age of India". From this time, and for several centuries afterwards, southern India, under the rule of the Chalukyas, Cholas, Pallavas, and Pandyas, experienced its own golden age. During this period, aspects of Indian civilization, administration, culture, and religion (Hinduism and Buddhism) spread too much of Asia.

Mughal rule came from Central Asia to cover most of the northern parts of the subcontinent. Mughal rulers introduced Central Asian art and architecture to India. In addition to the Mughals and various Rajput kingdoms, several independent Hindu states, such as the Vijayanagar Empire, the Maratha Empire, Eastern Ganga Empire and the Ahom Kingdom, flourished contemporaneously in southern, western, eastern and northeastern India respectively. The Mughal Empire suffered a gradual decline in the early 18th century, which provided opportunities for the Afghans, Balochis, Sikhs, and Marathas to exercise control over large areas in the northwest of the subcontinent until the British East India Company gained ascendancy over South Asia.

Beginning in the mid-18th century and over the next century, large areas of India were annexed by the British East India Company. Dissatisfaction with Company rule led to the Indian Rebellion of 1857, after which the British provinces of India were directly administered by the British Crown and witnessed a period of both rapid development of infrastructure and economic decline. During the first half of the 20th century, a nationwide struggle for independence was launched by the Indian National Congress and later joined by the Muslim League. The subcontinent gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1947.

Indian epic: INDIAN mythology consists of tales of gods, the devas and the asuras. However, there are only two famous epics for the Hindus. They are the Mahabharata and Ramayana.

The Mahabharata is a book written by the poet Vyasa. It is the epic tale of a quarrel between the Pandavas and the Kauravas that culminated in a fight.

Ramayana Sanskrit epic by Valmiki based on the story of Rama, son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya. The epic is divided into seven episodes or parts

Recession in india

“India braved the recession better than many other countries”

There is a saying that “When America sneezes – the rest of the world catches a cold”

It may be true with rest of the world but India had some higher immunity to resist the global meltdown which started in USA in 2007. This financial crisis impacted various economies across the world; including USA, UK, Japan, China, France and India. During this turmoil the countries had varying impacts; countries like China and India had a lesser share of the worldwide despair. There are many reasons which it has led the world to believe that India survived the global problem.

Financial policies implemented in India after liberalization in 1991 played an important role in this perspective. In India we have strictly regulated market by active participation of financial regulators like Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs. These regulators ensure that although Indian Markets have exposure to foreign players but at the same time have lesser vulnerability to global risks.

Climate of India

The climate of India resolves into six major climatic subtypes; their influence gives rise to desert in the west, alpine tundra and glaciers in the north, humid tropical regions supporting rain forests in the southwest, and Indian Ocean island territories that flank the Indian subcontinent. Regions have starkly different—yet tightly clustered—microclimates. The nation is largely subject to four seasons: winter (January and February), summer (March to May), a monsoon (rainy) season (June to September), and a post-monsoon period (October to December).

India's geography and geology are climatically pivotal: the Thar Desert in the northwest and the Himalayas in the north work in tandem to effect a culturally and economically break-all monsoonal regime. As Earth's highest and most massive mountain range, the Himalayan system bars the influx of frigid katabatic winds from the icy Tibetan Plateau and northerly Central Asia. Most of North India is thus kept warm or is only mildly chilly or cold during winter; the same thermal dam keeps most regions in India hot in summer.

65 years of Independence: India's achievements

It has been sixty five years since our motherland broke the shackles and unfettered her from colonial presence. These sixty five years have not been easy. Every day, every year has been a story of relentless hard work and perseverance of each and every Indian trying to carve out a niche for their motherland in the international platform. Exactly sixty five years hence when have entered the twelfth year of the new millennium and has celebrated our sixty-fifth independence day, we can proudly count on the achievements of our country. Industrial growth was not up to the mark. The life expectancy at birth was barely 36 years. The literacy rate was shockingly low and we had more than half the population below the poverty line. Our country was looked upon with contempt by the west and India was considered a country that was totally backward which lacked in all areas of development be it social, economic or political. The condition was highly critical and grave and thus it was a real predicament for our countrymen to set things right and make a superpower out of rubble but the resilience and hard work of Indians deserves credit. Today things have changed. India is considered to be an emerging superpower of the world. Be it technology, economy or any other area we have inculcated the knack to master all. With the GDP growth touching whopping levels of 9% per annum and a booming Sensex the

economy seems to be growing at an unprecedented rate. There has been considerable development on the social front as well. The literacy rate has improved significantly with almost three-fourth of the population considered literate now. Health facilities have improved both in terms of infrastructure as well as in terms of skilled personnel. Life expectancy at birth is almost 62 years now. Unemployment levels have gone down and thus have the poverty level. Schemes such as the “Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana”, “Indira Awas Yojana”, “Integrated Child Development Scheme”, “Mid-day Meals At School” have helped to create a pool of opportunities for the rural people and has also motivated them to take part in the development process of the country. In the field of science and technology as well as in the industrial arena we have attained great heights. Indian space research is already on the verge of entering an elite group with ‘Chandrayaan’, India’s lunar mission already on cards.

We cannot afford to rest, we have attained extraordinary growth but the real test before us is to sustain this boom. The government has been formulating several policies but it is the responsibility of every citizen to work and co-operate in the proper execution of the policies so that we can continue with our stupendous success story and become a superpower within the next fifteen/twenty years.

Indian Monuments

India is among one of the rare and unique countries in the world which stands for its ancient cultures and traditions, which range through a span of centuries. It is clearly evident from the remains of the ancient monuments and traces in the different parts of India. The Indian monuments are the living examples which take us back to thousands of years and helps in exploring the history of India. These monuments in India offer a great help to study and know more about the ancient civilizations of India. These monuments also attract a large number of tourists from all over

the world. The famous monuments of India can be classified into monuments of South, North, West and East of India. The ancient Indian monuments have a rare and unique architecture, which tells about the story of ancient India. These monuments across India are considered to be the real treasure of India, which is being preserved with great importance. Among the Indian monuments, TajMahal is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

The culture of India is inherent from its rich and diverse migrations and invasions from over 5000 year old history. It has an immense physical, religious, racial and linguistic variety. Indian culture is defined by the ideas, thoughts and philosophies prevalent in the country and its people.

The uniqueness of Indian culture lies in its strong social system and family values. The elders are considered the driving force and so are respected and loved. The guests are considered as gods and are treated with respect and love, even by foregoing some of the personal pleasures. Indians are always ready to help one another in times of need. The philosophy of distributing joy and sharing sorrows is also an important part of Indian culture. Such unity in diversity can be seen here which teaches tolerance and respect for others.

The mildness and humaneness of Indian culture can be seen in all aspect of life. India has people from all religions and walks of life living together in harmony. India being the birth place of many religions like Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, there is freedom of worship and to practice any religion throughout the country. In times of calamity as well as celebrations, all religions come together and share the feelings of one another.

Indian festivals, food, religions, rituals, artifacts, monuments, costumes, music and dance, language and literature form an inseparable part of its culture. The diversity can also be seen in

the variety of languages spoken here – around 1000, including the regional dialects). The constitution of India recognizes Hindi and English as the two official languages used in the Union Government.

India is a diverse and secular country with people from all religious backgrounds following their beliefs and teachings. Having such a diverse and varied population, India is a country of festivals and occasions. The festivals of all religions are celebrated throughout the nation bringing everyone closer. Apart from that there are different other religious festivals observed across India. Then there are some local or regional festivals celebrated by the people of that particular region.

Another notable aspect of Indian culture is the importance of cuisines in the life of people. The main ingredient is the various spices and herbs. Each region has its own mix of spices and elaborate cooking method to make an assortment of dishes. Food has an important role in bringing the family together. It is a time when all members of the family sit and share their daily experiences.

Culture is not only about the art, architecture and literature but it is a part of the people right from the childhood. The culture of a country is shaped by the people and their upbringing- what ideas and thoughts have been put into their development. Indian culture is formed by blending the various influences from the neighbors and invaders as well as by preserving its ancient heritage.

National Festivals:

India is a land of great diversity. It is described as a land of many religions and innumerable languages; it might well be described as a land of festivals as well. Indians love celebrating. Every little occasion from the harvesting of crops, welcoming the spring or rain, to seeing the full moon lends itself to joyous celebrations splashed with colors, music, folk dances and songs. Even the

birthdays of divine beings are celebrated by connecting them with particular festivals.

The Indian calendar is one long procession of festivals. These are as varied in origin as they are large in number. India is a multilingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural nation.

The homes are neatly decorated, new dresses are worn for every occasion, prayers offered to Gods, and lot of sweets and goodies are cooked. Most of these festivals are common to most part of India. However they may be known by different names in different parts of the country. Different cultures also mean that different rituals are followed.

Indian festivals are celebrated according to the solar and lunar calendars. Consequently, dates & months may vary accordingly.

Being a highly spiritual country, festivals are at the heart of people's lives in India. The numerous and varied festivals that are held throughout the year offer a unique way of seeing Indian culture at its best. The following popular festivals in India will provide you with a truly memorable experience.

Festivals are celebration of life, festivals for the general public to bring peace and happiness. They break the monotony of life. Festivals also bring cooperation and unity among the people. As life has become more complex, festivals help us come together with family, friends, and well wishers.

Festivals submerged in the spirit of unity and harmony. It is a custom to send wishes to your relatives and associates on the occasion of the festival. This brings people closer and gives them an opportunity to share their feelings with each other. The traditional method of greeting someone is through a hug and exchange of sweets. Apart from this, there are a number of ways through which you can send wishes. People send messages

through greeting cards, e-mail, mobile sms messages, as well as on line forums to greet each other. It has become an ideal means of connecting and relating to each other for most of the people who are staying out of their home towns.

Indian temples

India - A land of intense spirituality and religious faith reflected in the profusion of temples in India present in this subcontinent. Temples of India are found everywhere from large monumental structures to small stone buildings, each having a certain significance and greatly influencing the lives of the people who regard the temple shrine as a place where they could be close to god.

Hinduism is the religion followed by the Hindus. The Hindu philosophy has a very strong influence on the people governing various aspects of their lives including their spiritual life. The Hindu temples apart from being religious also play the role of a social, cultural and economic center influencing the lives of the people both in the cities and villages. These wonderful monuments form a part of the Indian cultural heritage. A Mandir, Devalayam, Devasthanam, or a Hindu temple is a place of worship for followers of Hinduism. A characteristic of most temples is the presence of murtis (statues) of the Hindu deity to whom the temple is dedicated. They are usually dedicated to one primary deity, the presiding deity, and other deities associated with the main deity. However, some temples are dedicated to several deities, and others are dedicated to murtis in an iconic form. Many temples are in key geographical points, such as a hill top, near waterfalls, caves and rivers; because some believe the Puranas mention that "the gods always play where groves are near rivers, mountains, and springs."

Indian rivers

The rivers of India play an important role in the lives of the Indian people. The river systems provide irrigation, potable water, cheap

transportation, electricity, and the livelihoods for a large number of people all over the country. This easily explains why nearly all the major cities of India are located by the banks of rivers. The rivers also have an important role in Hindu mythology and are considered holy by all Hindus in the country.

Seven major rivers, Ganga, Yamuna, Godhavari, Saraswathi, Narmada, Sindhu, Kaveri along with their numerous tributaries make up the river system of India. Most of the rivers pour their waters into the Bay of Bengal; however, some of the rivers whose courses take them through the western part of the country and towards the east of the state of Himachal Pradesh empty into the Arabian Sea.

Rivers in India are considered Holy. The rivers of India have a lot of religious significance. Revered, prayed, looked after, these rivers are a part of every Indian Life. Nothing moves without them. These are as special as the Indian Temple for a Indian. Visit some of these Indian rivers to see what they mean to a common man of India.

Himalayas

The Mountains: Everyone loves the beautiful mountains of India. But are they really mountains? Many believe they are the abode of the gods. And India has so many gods!

Himalayan mountain system is the world's highest, and home to the world's highest peaks, the Eight-thousanders, which include Mount Everest and K2. The Himalayan mountain includes over 100 mountains exceeding 7,200 m (23,600 ft.).

The main Himalayan range runs west to east, from the Indus river valley to the Brahmaputra river valley, forming an arc 2,400 km (1,500 miles) long, which varies in width from 400 km (250 miles) in the western Kashmir-Xinjiang region to 150 km (93 miles) in the eastern Tibet-Arunachal Pradesh region

The flora and fauna of the Himalayas vary with climate, rainfall, altitude, and soil. The climate ranges from tropical at the base of the mountains to permanent ice and snow at the highest elevations. The amount of yearly rainfall increases from west to east along the front of the range. This diversity of climate, altitude, rainfall and soil conditions generates a variety of distinct plant. In fact the extreme of high altitude and very cold at the most elevated reaches allow extremophile organisms to survive.

Indian family values

Even though India is a country made up of numerous religions and communities of people, the basic values and systems of family life remain similar. The children are raised giving utmost importance for family values. These values have been described in our ancient texts (Vedas) and have been practiced for centuries in our motherland and elsewhere. Indians are being thought from beginning the importance of being a great father, mother, son etc. by learning from the characters of Ramayan&Mahabharath. A dress-code for everyone and children are thought to fully respect our Guru and Parents.

In India, unlike in America and other western world, the family plays a central role in shaping an individual's future. It is amazing to see how often well-educated, independent professionals do consult their parents. At the core of Indian culture lies an innate respect for parents and other elders in the family, and usually no major decision is taken without consulting them. Parents often live with their married children, specially with the son. There is really no concept of a grown-up son or daughter 'moving out of the house' unless it is the result of circumstances like a job in a different city.

Family is the longest surviving institution of India irrespective of the ages, transformations, religious and political views. Loyalty, integrity and unity are the three pillars upon which Indian families

&Indian Culture stand. From family, Indians learn the first letters of collectivism and sacrificing individualism for collective interest. Extended family and kinship are two key aspect of Indian family system.

Indian dresses

Clothing in India varies widely and is closely related to local culture, religion and climate.

Traditional Indian clothing for women is saris or gaghracholis. They are considered beautiful clothes depending on the occasion. Saris made out of silk are considered the most elegant. In some rural parts of India, traditional clothing is worn. Women wear a sari, a long sheet of colorful cloth with patterns. This is draped over a simple or fancy blouse. This is worn by young ladies and women. Little girls wear a pavada. Both are often patterned. Bindi is part of the women's make-up. Churidar, dupatta, KharaDupatta, gamchha, kurta, mundumneriyathum, sherwani are among other clothes.

Men Dresses are Sherwani, Kurta Pajama, Dhoti Kurta, Pathani Suit, Indo-Western Dress, Suits, Tuxedos and lots more. We also offer wide range of wedding accessories like Kamarbandh, Kantha, Kilangi, Stole, Tikka, and Turban for that perfect grooms look.

Indian marriages

The beauty of Indian marriages indeed is the warmth of togetherness, the buzz of activities and the joy of involvement all of which serve to transform an ordinary event into a sublime fusion of families and friends... memories and moments....

Weddings are very bright events, filled with ritual and celebration that continue for several days. They are generally big affairs, with large crowd of friends, relatives, well-wishers and others. The traditional Indian wedding is about two families being brought

together socially, with as much emphasis placed on the families concerned coming closer as the individuals involved.

Many of the wedding customs are common among Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and even Muslims. They are a combination of local, religious, and family traditions. The period of Hindu marriage ceremonies dates from the presenting tilak, and is called lagan/[shaadi].

In India there is no greater event in a family than a wedding, dramatically evoking every possible social obligation, kinship bond, traditional value, impassioned sentiment, and economic resource. In the arranging and conducting of weddings, the complex permutations of Indian social systems best display themselves.

Marriage is deemed essential for virtually everyone in India. For the individual, marriage is the great watershed in life, marking the transition to adulthood. Generally, this transition, like everything else in India, depends little upon individual volition but instead occurs as a result of the efforts of many people. Many wedding traditions which have originated in India have carried over to second and third generation.

The bride and groom are told about their duties and responsibilities in married life by priest. These vows direct the couple to a positive path of action. They help in promoting marital happiness for a lifetime.

Vows given to wife by the Husband at the time of wedding

1. I will consider my wife to be the better half. I will look after her just as I look after myself.
2. Accepting her as in-charge of my home, I shall plan things in consultation with her.

3. I will never express dissatisfaction about any shortcomings in my wife. If there are any, I will explain them to her lovingly. I will support her in overcoming them.
4. I will always have faith in my wife. I will never look at another woman with wrong intent, nor have an illicit relationship.
5. I will be affectionate and treat my wife like a friend.
6. I will bring home all my income to my wife. The household expenses will be incurred with her consent. I will always make an effort to ensure her comfort and happiness.
7. I will not find fault or criticize my wife before others. We will sort out our differences and mistakes in privacy by ourselves.
8. I will have a courteous and tolerant attitude towards my wife. I will always follow a compromising policy.
9. If my wife is unwell, or is unable to fulfill some of the responsibilities or through some misunderstanding behaves wrongly, I will not withdraw support or refuse to fulfill my responsibilities towards her.

Indian art

India has a rich and ancient history. Right from ancient times there has been a synthesis of indigenous and foreign influences that have shaped the course of the arts of India, and consequently, the rest of Asia. Arts refer to paintings, architecture, literature, music, dance, languages and cinema. In early India, most of the arts were derived Vedic influences. After the birth of contemporary Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism arts flourished under the patronage of kings and emperors. The coming of Islam spawned a whole new era of Indian architecture and art. Finally the British brought their own Gothic and Roman influences and fused it with the Indian style. They have a culture infusion in their art.

Indian cinema

Indian cinema is something unique and special. Wonderful variety of entertainment with dialogue, songs, scenery, love, sex and what not. The cinemas are viewed to relieve stress, family meet, friends union etc., the cinema industry has grown from strength to strength and has become most powerful and the people value cinema and the people who are in cinema. Even though Hindi cinema is most successful and familiar, the cinema is taken on most of the major languages.

Indian people are beautiful and have beautiful hair

Indian People are beautiful. Most of them have wheat complexion. Though Indians are of different creed, caste, religion, color etc., the features are something unique and easily identifiable over the rest of the world. Indian woman is ranked top in beauty and the body features, the eyes, the hair, the natures are some thing great to adore. In each part of the country, the people look different with the style, dress, color, habits, food etc.

Indian villages

Villages are actually the strength in India. Throughout the world we can not find the weather and atmosphere that would be available in villages. In villages one could find the relations that could be nowhere across the world. In villages one could find the environment which is not polluted.

The heart of India lies in its villages. The rural India is a complete contrast to the urban one with its sky scrapers and rapid pace of life. The India villages are, in fact, the true representative of India. Family bonding, social responsibilities, religious practices and others are the innate features of village life. The Indian 'rural cosmopolitan' makes India more interesting and enriching.

Socializing in india

Indians are as warm and hospitable as any other modern community on the globe today. They like to socialize and make new friends. They might initially appear to be a little shy but that can be attributed more to any spoken language barriers than an attitude. More number of well settled and educated Indians particularly in cosmopolitan cities are increasingly willing to have friends from across the world than just their own communities. Cities have a number of clubs, pubs where a much larger number of especially younger Indians can be easily approached in the evenings and the like minded always like to progress social contacts further.

Indian spiritual leaders

Indians are interested in the spirituality and meditation looks for a Guru or a teacher who can guide him/her in the right direction. The land of India is full of Gurus, spiritual as well as religious. These are the people who have promoted spirituality, meditation, love, peace, brotherhood, serving others and other such humanitarian values to people in India and the rest of the world. Let me briefly present few of them:

Adi Shankaracharya - AdiShankaracharya was the first philosopher who consolidated Advaita Vedanta, one of the sub-schools of Vedanta. He believed in the greatness of the holy Vedas and was a major proponent of the same.

Andal - Andal was a 10th century Tamil poet who is revered as a saint in the southern parts of India. Infact, she is considered as one of the twelve Alvars (saints) and the only woman Alvar (saint) of Vaishnavism (a cult devoted to Lord Vishnu).

Bharat Thakur - Bharat Thakur is one of the spiritual masters of India who have received international recognition. The founder of Artistic Yoga, he has numerous meditation workshops to his credit.

BikramChoudhary - BikramChoudhury, the founder of Bikram Yoga, is one of the most popular fitness gurus in Hollywood. He is also the founder of the worldwide Yoga College of India.

BKS Iyengar - The full name of BKS Iyengar, one of the most renowned yoga gurus in the whole world, is Belur KrishnamacharSundararajalyengar. Popularly known as Yogacharya B.K.S. Iyengar, he is man who founded the Iyengar Yoga.

Sri Aurobindo - Sri Aurobindo was one of the most talented as well as prolific spiritual leaders of India. Along with that, he was a brilliant writer, who published 68 volumes of sophisticated literary knowledge.

Avvaiyyar - Avvaiyyar was a female poet of the ninth century, who lived in the southern parts of India. She is known, not only for her extraordinary poetry, but also, as a noble and revered saint. The term 'Avvaiyyar' means 'respected old woman' or 'Grandmother'.

Chinmayananda - Swami Chinmayananda is counted amongst the most notable spiritual leaders in India. He was considered as an authority on the ancient Indian scriptures, especially the sacred Bhagwad Gita and the Upanishads.

DayanandSaraswati - The founder of AryaSamaj (the Society of Nobles), Swami DayanandSaraswati was one of the greatest religious leaders ever born in India. He was responsible, to some an extent, in bringing back the age-old teaching tradition of 'Gurukul'. He advocated for the equal right of women

Guru Nanak Dev - Guru Nanak Devji was the founder of one of the largest religions of the world, Sikhism. He was also the first amongst the ten Gurus of the Sikhs. He believed that there is only one God and we can reach him through any religion, be it Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam, etc.

Gyaneshwar - It is difficult to pinpoint who exactly Gyaneshwar was. He had so many talents in himself, that it is not easy to explain his contribution to the Indian culture in a single sentence.

Sant Kabir - Sant Kabir is considered to be one of the greatest poets as well as mystics ever born in India. He believed that human beings are equal and being one with God is the ultimate aim of every individual.

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi - Maharishi Mahesh Yogi is the creator of the transcendental form of meditation, along with being the leader of the Transcendental Meditation Movement. One of the most renowned spiritual Gurus of India

Mata Amritanandamayi - Mata Amritanandamayi Devi is one of the most loved and most respected spiritual leaders in India. Fondly known as Amma, she has only one aim in life, which is to provide people with her supreme guidance

Mira Alfassa - Mira Alfassa, later named as 'The Mother', was the spiritual partner of Sri Aurobindo. After Sri Aurobindo renounced the worldly life and went into seclusion, she looked after Auroville, also known as Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

Mother Teresa - Saint Mother Teresa is perhaps the greatest human being who has ever lived in this world. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in October 2003. She had only one aim in life, to serve the poor, the destitute, the needy and all those who were dejected by the society.

Namadeva - Namadeva was one of the most famous poet saints of the thirteenth and fourteenth century. He was the composer of hundreds of 'abhangs' (devotional songs).

Nammalwar - Nammalwar was a Tamil Poet, regarded as one of the twelve Alvars in India. He is quite renowned for his beautiful

hymns dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The main aim of Nammalwar's life was to serve the Lord.

Osho Rajneesh - Osho was one of the most renowned as well as most controversial spiritual leaders of his times. During the 1970s and 1980s, he was known as Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Paramahansa Yogananda - Guru Paramahansa Yogananda was one of the distinguished yogis of India. He was the one responsible for taking the teachings of meditation and Kriya Yoga to the western countries.

Pandurang Shastri Athavale - Pandurang Shastri Athavale popularly known as Dada, is a philosopher cum social reformer. He is credited with being the founder of the Swadhyay Movement. Not present in the world anymore

Patanjali - It is believed that Maharishi Patanjali was the avatar of Adi Shesha - the Infinite Cosmic Serpent upon whom Lord Vishnu rests. He is considered to be the compiler of the Yoga Sutras

Ramakrishna Paramahansa - Ramakrishna was one of the greatest religious leaders ever born in India. He believed that every individual must have only one aim in life i.e., the realization of the Ultimate Reality.

Ramdev Baba - Baba Ramdev is a renowned Yoga teacher. Through the medium of television, he has taken the art of yoga to each and every household far and wide. He is the host of a program named 'DivyaYog' that airs on Aastha TV everyday.

Sathya Sai Baba A great spiritual leader, Sri Sathya Sai Baba preaches the path of spirituality to one and all. His main aim in life is to serve the mankind and provide them with proper guidance

Shirdi Sai Baba - Sri Shirdi Sai Baba is considered to be the epitome of spiritual enlightenment and religious harmony. One of

the greatest saints ever born in India, He is believed to be a manifestation of God.

Shri Yogendra - Shri Yogendra was the founder of 'The Yoga Institute' situated in Santa Cruz, Mumbai. A firm believer of yoga, he founded the institute to promote the science of Yoga throughout the world.

Swami Sivananda - Swami Sivananda was a responsible for promoting the philosophy of Yoga and Vedanta amongst the people of India as well as the world. He was also the founder of the Divine Life Society.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar - Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is a famous spiritual leader of India. He is credited with being the initiator of a foundation, known as the Art of Living Foundation. His aim in life is to teach people cope up with the stresses of everyday life

Surdas - Surdas is one of the people who had great influence on the cultural heritage of India. He was a poet, a saint and a musician and played all the parts with the same finesse.

Swami Vivekananda - Swami Vivekananda was the disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa. He founded the Ramakrishna mission to spread the teachings of his Guru throughout the world.

Swami SatyanandaSaraswati - Swami SatyanandaSaraswati belonged to the Dashnami lineage of AdiShankaracharya. He is one of the members of the tribe of Swamis who are called for the order of "Saraswati".

SadhguruJaggiVasudev - SadhguruJaggiVasudev is a world-renowned mystic and yogi of Indian origin. The founder of Isha Yoga as well as of Isha Foundation, he is also a very famous poet. His aim in life is to help people in manifesting their own spirituality.

Sri K. Pattabhi Jois - Sri K. Pattabhi Jois, or Sri Krishna PattabhiJois, counts amongst the world-renowned yoga teachers of India. A student of Sri TirumalaiKrishnamacharya, he is currently teaching at the Ashtanga Yoga Research Institute of Mysore, founded by him. His yoga shala attracts thousands of foreign students every year.

Swami Yogeshwaranand Saraswati - Swami Yogeshwaranand Saraswati was counted amongst the most popular as well as most learned Yogis of the 20th century. His life, which was spent mostly in the Himalayas, is the perfect example of extreme renunciation

Tukaram - Tukaram was one of the greatest poet saints ever born in India. It is quite renowned for his contribution to the Bhakti Movement of Maharashtra. Read this biography further to know more about the SantTukaram.

Valmiki Maharishi (the great sage) claims the distinction of being the author of the holy epic 'Ramayana', consisting of 24,000 verses. He is also believed to be the author of Yoga Vasistha

Vishwamitra Rishi - Vishwamitra is considered to be one of the most revered rishis (sages) of the ancient India. As per the holy Puranas, there have been only 24 Rishis in India who have the Gayatri Mantra.

Salim Chishti No one ever wondered that the great Mughal Emperor Akbar would pass on a simple Sufi saint's name to his son. Reason being that the latter had foretold the birth of his son and Akbar, as a mark of respect, bestowed the name Prince Salim to his first son, who later succeeded him to the throne as Emperor Jahangir.

Nizamuddin Aulia - NizamuddinAulia aka Mehboob-e-Elahi, which means Beloved of God, was one of the greatest saints of the Christi Order in South Asia. The order was involved in drawing close to God through renunciation of the world and service to humanity.

Indian political leaders:

India is a land of great political leaders who ruled the country effectively and also by protecting its national interest. It was not an easy task to accomplish, keeping in view the changes taking place in the world political scenario. Leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, LalBahadurShastri and Indira Gandhi played an indispensable role in changing the perspective of world towards India. The manner, in which issues like border disputes, Kashmir and growing shortage of food grains were handled, they really deserve an honour. The far-sightedness and pragmatic characteristics of the leaders can be assumed from the fact that they framed the Constitution of India by inducting the best possible clauses of the world. They led the country from the front, without showing any inclination to either of the power blocs. There are many but few of them I would like to briefly present:

BalGangadharTilak - BalGangadharTilak was a social reformer and freedom fighter. He was one of the prime architects of modern India and strongest advocates of Swaraj (Self Rule). He was universally recognized as the “Father of Indian Movement”.

Bhagat Singh - Bhagat Singh was among the prominent revolutionaries who shaped the base of a Grand National movement. Following his execution, on March 23, 1931, the supporters and followers of Bhagat Singh regarded him as a “Shaheed”, “martyr”.

Chandrasekhar Azad - A contemporary of Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad was a born firebrand revolutionary. He engaged in a heroic battle against the British. His role was crucial in inspiring the others of his generation to participate in the national movement for freedom.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale - Gopal Krishna Gokhale was one of the pioneers of the Indian Independence Movement. Gokhale was

a senior leader of the Indian National Congress. He was one of the most learned men in the country, a leader of social and political reformists and one of the earliest and founding leaders of the Indian Independence Movement.

Indira Gandhi - Indira Gandhi was, undoubtedly, one of the greatest political leaders of India. She was the first and the only woman to be elected as the Prime Minister. She is also regarded as the most controversial political leader of the country for her unprecedented decision of imposing “a state of emergency”.

Jawaharlal Nehru - Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of independent India. He was a member the Congress Party that led the freedom movement against British Empire. Nehru was one of the architects who had the opportunity to steer the newly freed-nation. He was also the chief framer of domestic and international policies between 1947 and 1964.

LalaLajpatRai - LalaLajpatRai immensely contributed in attaining independence forthe nation. He helped in establishing few schools in the country. He also initiated the foundation of Punjab National Bank. In 1897, he founded the Hindu Orphan Relief Movement to keep the Christian missions from securing custody of these children.

Lal BahadurShastri - He devoted his life for the pride and honour of the country. Shastri was regarded as a man of principles. LalBahadurShastri offered his resignation as Union Railway Minister; hours after he was made aware of a train accident that killed around 150 people.

Maulana AbulKalam Azad - MaulanaAbulKalam Azad was a renowned journalist of his time. Disturbed by his provocative articles, the British Government decided to deport him off Calcutta. Despite his house-arrest and imprisonment, MaulanaAbulKalam Azad continued to write against the anti-people policies of the British Government.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose - NetajiSubhash Chandra Bose was a freedom fighter of India. He was the founder of the Indian National Army. During pre-independence period Netaji had visited London to discuss the future of India, with the members of the Labour party.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad - Rajendra Prasad was a great leader of the Indian Nationalist Movement and also one of the architects of the Indian Constitution. He was elected as the first President of Republic of India. Rajendra Prasad was a crucial leader of the Indian Independence Movement, who left his lucrative profession to participate in the nationalist movement of India.

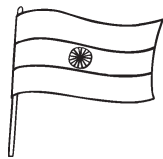
Rajiv Gandhi - Rajiv Gandhi was one of the popular Prime Ministers of India. The developmental projects launched by him include the national education policy and expansion of telecom sector. Besides his achievement and subsequent popularity, Rajiv Gandhi also emerged as one of India's controversial Prime Ministers.

SardarVallabhbhai Patel - Vallabhbhai Patel was one of the great social leaders of India. He played a crucial role during the freedom struggle of India and was instrumental in the integration of over 500 princely states into the Indian Union. Despite the choice of the people, on the request of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel stepped down from the candidacy of Congress president.

Sarojini Naidu - Sarojini Naidu was truly one of the gems of the 20th century India. She was known by the sobriquet "The Nightingale of India". Her contribution was not confined to the field of politics only but she was also a renowned poet. The play "Maher Muneer", written by Naidu at an early age, fetched a scholarship to study abroad.

National Things

National Flag : The National Flag is the horizontal tricolor of deep saffron (kesaria) at the top for courage and sacrifice, white in the middle, for truth and peace, and green at the bottom in equal proportion for faith, fertility, and chivalry. At the center of the white band is a navy blue wheel, which is a representation of the Ashoka Chakra at Saranath. An emblem of a wheel spinning used to be in the center of the white band, but when India gained independence, a Buddhist *dharma chakra*, or wheel of life, replaced the spinning wheel.



National Emblem - The National Emblem of India is derived from the time of the Emperor Ashoka. The emblem is a replica of the Lion of Saranath, near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The Lion Capital was erected in the third century BC by Emperor Ashoka to mark the spot where Buddha first proclaimed his gospel of peace and emancipation to the four quarters of the universe.

National Anthem - The Jana Gana Mana is the national Anthem of India, composed by Rabindranath Tagore. It was officially adopted by the constituent Asembly as the Indian national anthem on January 24, 1950.



National Song : Bankim Chandra Chatterji's song "*VandeMataram*" was adopted as the National Song. It has an equal status with "*Jana GanaMana*". It was first sung in the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.



National Animal : Tiger is the National Animal of India. It is symbol of India's wildlife wealth. The magnificent tiger, *Panthera tigris*, is a striped animal.

National Bird : The Peacock, *Pavocristatus*, is the national bird of India. Emblematic of qualities such as beauty grace, pride.



National Fruit Mango is the national fruit of India. Described as the "Food of the Gods", in the sacred Vedas, the fruit is grown in almost all parts of India.



National Flower : Lotus botanically known as the *NelumboNucifera* is the national flower of India.



National Tree : Banian Tree is the National Tree of India. This huge tree towers over its neighbours and has the widest reaching roots of all known trees.



National Calendar - The Sakacalender is the national calender of India. It is used, alongside the Gregorian calender.

National Days. - 26th January (Republic Day)

15th August (Independence Day)

2nd October (Gandhi Jayanti; Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday)

INDIA AT GLANCE:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Country Name | Republic of India; Bharat Ganrajya |
| Government Type | Sovereign, Socialist ,Democratic ,Republic with a Parliamentary system of Government |
| Capital | New Delhi |
| Official Language | Hindi, English |
| Administrative Division | 28 States and 7 Union Territories. |
| Independence | 15th August 1947 (From the British Colonial Rule) |
| Constitution | The Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950. |
| Legislature | Sansad |
| Legal System | The Constitution of India is the fountain source of the legal system in the Country. |
| Executive Branch | The President of India is the Head of the State, while Prime Minister is the Head of the Government, and runs office with the support of Council of Ministers who forms the Cabinet Ministry. |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Legislative Branch | The Indian Legislature comprises of the Lok Sabha (House of the people) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) forming both the Houses of the Parliament. |
| Judicial Branch | The Supreme Court of India is the apex body of the Indian legal system, followed by other High Courts and subordinate Courts. |

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Capital | New Delhi |
| Area | 32,87,263 sq.km |
| Area wise in the world | 7th |
| Location | India extends between latitudes 8o4'N and 37o6'N. It is a country of the east with its landmass lying between longitudes 68o7'E and 97o25'E. |
| Stretch | 3,214 Kilometers from north to south 2,933 Kilometers from east to west |
| Land Frontier | 15,200 km |
| Coastline | 7516.5 km |
| Neighbouring Countries | India shares its political borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan on the west and Bangladesh and Myanmar on the east. The northern boundary is made up of the Sinkiang province of China, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. India is |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and Gulf of Manner |
| Physical Feature | The mainland consists of four well-defined regions: (i)The great mountain zone, (ii)The Indo-Gangetic plain, (iii)The desert region and (iv)The Southern Peninsula |
| Rivers | The main rivers of the Himalayan group are the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. |
| Climate | There are four seasons which are recognized by the India Meteorological department. They are - Cold weather, hot weather, rainy season and the season of the retreating south-west monsoon. |
| Fauna | Approx. 89,451 species |
| National Parks | 94 |
| Wildlife Sanctuaries | 501 |
| Official Languages | Hindi |
| Population (2001 census) | 1,203,710,000(March 2011)(17% of the world's population) |
| Population wise place in the world | 2nd |
| Population density | 324 person per square kilometer |
| Population growth | 21.34 % |
| Sex Ratio | 933 females per 1000 males |
| Literacy | 65.38 % |
| Male Literacy | 75.85 % |
| Female Literacy | 54.16 % |

India is a developing nation:**Your contribution to indian economy:**

You can make a huge difference to the indian economy by following few simple steps: - In 2010 1 US \$ = Indian Rs 39 After 12 months, in 2011 it is 1 \$ = Indian Rs 52, in 2012 it is 1 \$ is Indian 57. Do you think US Economy is booming? No, but Indian Economy is going down. Our economy is in your hands.... **Indian** economy is in a crisis. Our country like many other Asian countries is undergoing a severe economic crunch. Many **Indian** industries are closing down. If we do not take proper steps to control those, we will be in a critical situation. More than 30,000 cr. rupees of foreign exchange are being siphoned out of our country on products such as cosmetics, snacks, tea, beverages, etc... Which are grown, produced and consumed here. A cool drink that costs only 70 / 80 paisa to produce is sold for Rs.9 and a major chunk of profits from these are sent abroad. This is a serious drain on **Indian** economy. Nothing against Multinational companies, but to protect Indian interest, everybody should use **Indian** products. With the rise in petrol prices, the Rupee will devalue further and end up paying much more for the same products in the near future.

All categories of products are available from Wholly Companies. You just need to choose an alternate product.

List of products**cool drinks:-**

Drink lemon juice, fresh fruit juices, chilled lassi (sweet or sour), butter milk, coconut water, jal jeera, energy, and masala milk...

instead of coca cola, pepsi, limca, mirinda, sprite

Bathing soap:-

use cinthol & other godrej brands, santoor, wipro shikakai, mysore sandal, margo, neem, evita, medimix, ganga , niki, nirma bath &

chandrika instead of lux, lifeboy, rexona, lilil, dove, pears, hamam, lesancy, eamamy Pamalive.

Tooth paste:- use neem, babool, promise, vico vajradanti, prudent,daburproducts, miswak

instead of colgate, close up, pepsodent, cibaca, forhans, mentadent.

Tooth brush: - Use prudent, ajanta , promise instead of colgate, close up, pepsodent, forhans, oral-b shaving cream:- use godrej, emami instead of palmolive, old spice, gillette blade:- use supermax, topaz, lazer, ashoka instead of seven-o -clock, 365, gillette

Talcum powder:- use santoor, gokul, cinthol, wipro baby powder, boroplus instead of ponds, old spice, johnson's baby powder, shower to shower milk powder:- use indiana, amul, amulya instead of anikspray, milkana, everyday milk, milkmaid.

Shampoo:- use lakme, nirma, velvette instead of halo, all clear, nyle, sunsilk, head and shoulders, pantene mobileconnections:- use BSNL, Airtel instead of hutch.

Food items:- eat tandoori chicken, vadapav, idli, dosa, puri, upma instead of kfc, macdonald's, pizza hut, a&w every indian product you buy makes a big difference. It saves india.

Buy indian to be indian. Every day is a struggle for a real freedom. We achieved our independence after losing many lives. they died painfully to ensure that we live peacefully. The current trend is very threatening.

please remember: Political freedom is useless without economic independence Russia, S.Korea, Mexico - the list is very long!! Let

us learn from their experience and from our history. Let us do the duty of every true indian.

DEVELOPMENT IS THE MANTRA OF EVERY INDIAN:

- India has the fourth largest billionaire population in the world, according to the Forbes list of world billionaires.
- India's financial capital Mumbai ranks as the seventh largest city, in terms of billionaire population, according to Forbes.
- Five Indian companies have made it to the Top 10 Global outsourcing leaders list, compiled by international Association of Outsourcing Professionals.
- Mobile phone production in India will grow at a rate of 28.3 per cent - from 31 million units in 2006 to 107 million in 2011
- India's market for business intelligence (BI) platforms grew by 35.6 per cent in 2005-06, making it Asia's fastest growing BI geography, says Gartner.
- Indian cement industry is poised to add 111 million tones (MT) of annual capacity by the end of 2009-10 (FY10), riding on the back of an estimated 141 outstanding cement projects.
- India's steel production, growing at 15 per cent in the first half of 2007, is expected to touch 124 MT by 2011-12, going beyond an earlier official estimate of 80 MT
- India's fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry has seen the launch of 251 new products up to October CY07, against 191 in the same period last year.
- India's telecom industry is expected to reach a size of US\$ 87.33 billion by 2012, with a growth rate of over 26 per cent.
- The Indian biotechnology industry is growing at 37 per cent annually, and is expected to become a US\$ 5 billion industry by 2010

- India remains the undisputed leader in offshore services, accounting for about 65-70 per cent of the global offshoring pie, according to a recent research from Gartner Inc.
- The Indian animation industry is expected to touch US\$ 950 million by 2009, as global players like Walt Disney, Imax, and Warner Bros tie up with Indian animation companies
- With 27 per cent growth in 2007, India's IT-enabled services (ITeS) sector is set to cross the US\$ 25.43 billion mark in 2008, says IT research company IDC (India).
- According to Nasscom, India's gaming segment touched US\$ 48.26 million in 2006, is likely to cross US\$ 427.35 million by 2010.
- The Indian healthcare IT market is the fastest growing in Asia - with an expected growth rate of 22 per cent - says a Springboard Research report.
- India's food and beverages sector, growing at 9 per cent, is expected to touch US\$ 117.25 billion by the year-end
- India's foundry industry, the world's fifth largest producer of castings, is on a growth curve with an estimated potential to produce 10 million tones by 2012.
- India is rapidly emerging as one of the world's media powerhouses. With 54 per cent of its 1.1 billion people aged under 25, it is potentially one of the world's largest markets for TV.
- India's food service entrepreneurs are executing massive expansion plans, with the industry expected to grow 48 per cent - to US\$ 667.49 million - in the next two years
- India's life insurance sector is expected to grow by around 30 per cent, to over US\$ 50 billion, in this financial year

- India has overtaken the US to become the second largest cotton producing country in the world, as per the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Application
- Times lists the Tata Nano along with legendary cars - like Ford Model T and Volkswagen Beetle - in 'The dozen most important cars of all time starting from 1908 to the present.
- According to a Price Waterhouse Coopers report, India could grow to almost 90 per cent of the size of the US economy by 2050
- The National Stock Exchange has become the world's second fastest-growing Course in terms of number of listed companies, while the Bombay Stock Exchange is the biggest bourse
- India 'US\$ 35.17 billion rural retail market is expected to cross US\$ 45.22 billion by 2010 and US\$ 60.29 billion by 2015, as per a Confederation of Indian Industry - Yes Bank study.
- The size of the luxury market in India is estimated at around US\$ 3.5 billion, and could easily leapfrog to US\$ 30 billion by 2015
- As many as nine Indian banks, led by HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, have made it to the list of top 50 Asian Banks, as per this year's Asian Banker 300 report.
- India's e-commerce market is expected to touch US\$ 2.33 billion by FY2007-08, as per a survey by the Internet and Mobile Association of India and Indian Market Research Bureau.
- Air passengers are projected to total 2.75 billion by 2011 - an increase of 620 million against that recorded in 2006 - according to International Air Transport Association.

- Indian consumer spending could more than quadruple to US\$ 1.77 trillion by 2025 - from about US\$ 431.69 billion in 2005 - steered by a ten-fold jump in its middle-class population and a three-fold rise in household income, according to a McKinsey study.
- India has recorded a 126 per cent jump in the amount spent on merger & acquisition (M&A) deals outside the Asia-Pacific region
- India's manufacturing activity in October 2007 expanded at its fastest pace in the 31-month history of the ABN AMRO Bank Purchasing Managers' Index survey
- India's internet user base grew by over 40 per cent to touch 46 million in September 2007 from 32.2 million in the same month last year
- GSM mobile subscriber base grew 62 per cent in 2007, from 105.4 million in December 2006 to 171.8 million at the end of December 2007
- The Indian product engineering offshoring market is expected to witness a 23 per cent CAGR by 2012, as large captive centres of global corporations continue to expand their activities
- The University of Oxford offers a new degree - MSc in Contemporary India - in response to the growing interest about India and its economy.
- India continues to be a favorites foreign direct investment (FDI) destination as FDI trebled to US\$ 11.4 billion in the first half (H1) of 2007, from US\$ 3.6 billion in H1 2006.
- India has ranked second in capital market inflows and fourth in mergers and acquisitions in Asia Pacific, with transactions

worth US\$ 65.033 billion reported in the first eight months of calendar 2007, according to Thomson Financial.

- With an estimated intangible assets component of 74 per cent (as proportion of total enterprise value), India is just behind US (75 per cent) and Switzerland (74 per cent), according to Global Intangible Tracker 2007, the most extensive global study ever on intangibles assets by the London-based Brand Finance Institute
- Indian firms listed in the US have a reason to smile - their total market value has grown by close to US\$ 20 billion since the beginning of 2007
- Indians are expected to have US\$ 1 trillion in investable wealth by 2012, with the country's robust economic growth driving a four-fold surge from just US\$ 250 billion in 2007.
- India Inc. has announced M&A deals worth US\$ 70 billion in 2007 - up 150 per cent over the previous calendar year - with the volume of deals involving Indian companies also having crossed the 1,000 mark for the first time
- India has recorded a huge rise in the number of corporate entities, with about 55,000 companies incorporated annually in the last two years.
- According to an India-focused cross-border advisory firm Indus View, India has attracted the highest volume of private equity investments - US\$ 10 billion - so far in 2007, among emerging economies
- India receives the world's largest remittances - US\$ 27 billion per year - according to a World Bank study, and global wealth managers are targeting the Indian diaspora to invest in the country

- India at second place in AT Kearney's 2007 FDI Confidence Index continues to attract investors in the high value-added services industries like financial services and information technology.

Sports in India - indian sports:

The history of sports in India dates back to the Vedic era. Physical culture in ancient India. Field hockey is the official national sport in India, and the country has won eight Olympic gold medals in field hockey, though cricket is the most popular sport. After the 1982 Asian Games hosted in New Delhi, the capital city now has modern sports facilities, and similar facilities are also being developed in other parts of the country. Besides sports and games included in the international sporting agenda, there are many which have developed indigenously and continue to be popular.

A wide variety of sports is played throughout the country. These include kabaddi, khokho, pehlwani, and gilli-danda. British rule brought many popular sports in India including football, rugby union, cricket, golf, tennis, squash, hockey, boxing, snooker, and billiards.

It is more likely that many of today's Olympic disciplines are advanced versions of games of strength and speed that flourished in ancient India. Chess, wrestling, polo, archery and hockey (possibly a fall-out from polo) are some of the games believed to have originated in India.

Following are the some of games played in India

1. Gilli-Danda: It is a sport played using one small stick called 'gilli' and one long stick called 'danda' like cricket with ball being replaced by Gilli. This game is generally played in villages of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana etc. states of India.

2. Kancha: It is played using marbles called 'kancha' in India in cities as well as in villages also. The festival of 'MakarSankranti' is marked with competitions of this sport in various competitions.
3. Badminton: Badminton is a very popular sport in India. Badminton is supposed to have originated in India 2000 years ago.
4. Bandy: India is having a Bandy team and Bandy Federation of India takes care of it. Its headquarters are in Himachal Pradesh. Bandy is generally played in northern India where there is generally snow and ice.
5. Boxing: Boxing is not so popular game in India. During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Vijender Kumar won a bronze medal in the middleweight boxing category and Akhil Kumar and Jitender Kumar qualified for the quarterfinals.
6. Cricket: Cricket is the most popular sport in India. India won the 1983 Cricket World Cup under KapilDev and finished as runner-up in the 2003 World Cup under SouravGanguly.
7. Cycling: This history of cycling in India dates back to 1938. Cycling Federation of India takes care of the sport.
8. Golf: Golf is an emerging sport in India. It is more popular in wealthier classes than the middle class and poor class peoples in India. There are numerous golf courses all over India. There is a Golf Tour. India's men's golf team won silver at the 2006 Asian Games.
9. Ice hockey: Ice hockey in India is mainly played in the Himalayan region of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir. In winter season the game is extremely popular and there are more than 25 clubs and villages that play the sport. However, due

to shortage of artificial freezing, the game is limited to cold winter months of December, January and February which facilitate natural freezing of lakes and ponds.

10. Kayaking: Indian flat kayakers are considered emerging powerhouse in the Asian circuit. Aside from professional flat water kayaking, there is very limited recreational kayaking. Indian tourists consider kayaking a one-time activity and not a sport to be pursued.
11. Kabaddi: Kabaddi sport basically originated in India. It is one of the most popular sport in India played mostly in villages. India has taken part in four Asian games in Kabaddi and won gold in all four of them.
12. Lawn tennis: Tennis is popular among Indian in urban areas. However, India's fortunes in the Grand Slams singles have been unimpressive although Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi have won may Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles Grand Slam titles.
13. Mountain biking : Mountain biking is getting popular in India also. From the last four years, Himachal MTB has been organised regularly by HASTPA, and NGO. It is attended by a number of national and international participants, such as Indian Force, Indian Air Army, ITBP and a number of young and energetic MTB individual riders from cities like Bangalore, Pune, Chandigarh and Delhi.
14. Rugby: Like other sports founded in England and introduced during the British Raj such as cricket, rugby union has a long history in India. The first recorded match was played on Christmas day 1872, at CFC in Calcutta. Although low in profile as compared to cricket or field hockey, it is growing as some Indian sporting clubs are beginning to embrace the game.

15. Throwball: Throwball is also gaining popularity in India as a competitive sport and Indian authorities of the game was instrumental in organizing Asian level and later, world level association for the sport. The game is popularly played in schools, clubs, colleges throughout Asian countries such as India, Korea, Sri Lanka, China, Japan, Pakistan and Nepal.
16. Volleyball: Volleyball is a sport played all over India, both in urban as well as rural India. It is a popular recreation sport. Indian ranked 5th in Asia and 27th in the world. Currently, an important problem for the sport is the lack of sponsors.

Indian State Facts

About India: Capital of India is New Delhi.

India is a federal union of states comprising 28 states and 7 union territories. The states and territories are further subdivided into districts and so on.



| Name | Population | Area (km ²) | Language | Capital |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 84,665,533 | 275,045 | Telugu, Urdu | Hyderabad |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1,382,611 | 83,743 | | Itanagar |
| Assam | 31,169,272 | 78,550 | Assamese, Bodo, Rabha dialect, Deori, Bengali | Dispur |
| Bihar | 103,804,637 | 99,200 | Hindi, Bhojpuri, Maithili, Magadhi | Patna |
| Chhattisgarh | 25,540,196 | 135,194 | Chattisgarhi, Hindi | Raipur |
| Goa | 1,457,723 | 3,702 | Konkani, Marathi | Panaji |
| Gujarat | 60,383,628 | 196,024 | Gujarati | |
| Haryana | 25,353,081 | 44,212 | Haryanvi (Western Hindi), Punjabi | (shared, Union Territory) |
| Himachal Pradesh | 6,856,509 | 55,673 | Western Hindi, Punjabi | Shimla |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 12,548,926 | 222,236 | Urdu, ^[4] Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Ladakhi ^[5] | Srinagar (summer) Jammu (winter) |
| Jharkhand | 32,966,238 | 74,677 | Hindi | Ranchi |
| Karnataka | 61,130,704 | 191,791 | Kannada | Bangalore |
| Kerala | 33,387,677 | 38,863 | Malayalam | |
| Thiruvananthapuram | | | | thapuram |
| Madhya Pradesh | 72,597,565 | 308,252 | Hindi | Bhopal |
| Maharashtra | 112,372,972 | 307,713 | Marathi | Mumbai |
| Manipur | 2,721,756 | 22,347 | Manipuri | Imphal |
| Meghalaya | 2,964,007 | 22,720 | Khasi, Pnar | Shillong |
| Mizoram | 1,091,014 | 21,081 | Mizo | Aizawl |
| Nagaland | 1,980,602 | 16,579 | Angami, Ao languages, Chang, Chakhesang, Konyak, and Sema | Kohima |
| Orissa [6] | 41,947,358 | 155,820 | Oriya | Bhubaneswar |
| Punjab | 27,704,236 | 50,362 | Punjabi | |
| Chandigarh | | | | (shared, Union Territory) |

| Rajasthan | 68,621,012 | 342,269 | Rajasthani (Western Hindi) | Jaipur |
|--|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sikkim | 607,688 | 7,096 | Nepali | Gangtok |
| Tamil Nadu | 72,138,958 | 130,058 | Tamil | Chennai |
| Tripura | 3,671,032 | 10,491.69 | Bengali | Agartala |
| Uttar Pradesh | 199,581,477 | 243,286 | Hindi, Urdu[7] | Lucknow |
| Uttarakhand | 10,116,752 | 53,566 | Western Hindi | Dehradun (interim) |
| West Bengal | 91,347,736 | 88,752 | Bengali, Urdu, Nepali, Santali | Kolkata |
| UNION TERRITORIES | | | | |
| Name | Population | Area km ² | Language | Capital |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 379,944 | 8,249 | Bengali | Port Blair |
| Chandigarh | 1,054,686 | 114 | Punjabi | Chandigarh |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 342,853 | 491 | Marathi and Gujarati | Silvassa |
| Daman and Diu | 242,911 | 112 | Gujarati | Daman |
| Lakshadweep | 64,429 | 32 | Malayalam | Kavaratti |
| National Capital Territory of Delhi | 16,753,235 | 1,483 | Hindi | New Delhi |
| Pondicherry | 1,244,464 | 500 | French and Tamil | Pondicherry |

What is the drawback of india?

Even though Indians had so many things invented we did not get any credit because Indians did not reveal to the world under the pretext that the world take advantage. Knowledge should be distributed. Instead it was protected under absolute secrecy in India. We not only lost the credit for our knowledge we also lost the expansion of our knowledge. Many of the Greek and Italian scientist got credit for Indian inventions because they are the first one to expose those knowledge to the world. Otherwise it would have been inaccessible to us even now. Even now we can identify some of the ancient traits in modern teachers. They won't teach everything to everyone. We can find those traits in the field of martial arts and medicine. That is why ancient Indian martial arts and Indian medicine are diminishing. This is one example in Indian educational system that leads to everything

Set backs in india

Today the country is suffering a myriad problems-poverty, unemployment, population explosion, deceit, cheating, psychological stress, blind imitation of western culture, AIDS disease, communal riots, corruption etc., Let us pledge to do away with all these social stigma's. Let us build a strong a vibrant country. We all should dedicate to this goal to build this country for a bright future for generations to come.

The other major problem of our country has been illiteracy and ignorance. These setbacks have paved the way for a number of problems. Lack of education has made it difficult for people to understand the problems that one is facing as an individual and as a community. Educating people from every walk of life will help solve a lot of problems. These will help people to learn and understand their rights as citizens as well as make them aware of their responsibilities as good citizens.

I would like to end by quoting the words of Dr. Armild Toynbee. "It is already becoming clearer, that a chapter which has a Western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self destruction of the human race... At this supremely dangerous moment in history the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way"