INDIA AT A GLANCE

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. It has achieved all-round socio-economic progress since Independence. As the 7th largest country in the world, India stands apart from the rest of Asia, marked off as it is by mountains and the sea, which give the country a distinct geographical entity. Bounded by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer, tapers off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.

More than 1.3 billion people live in Indian sub-continent. India is a land of many cultural livings, “Unity through Diversity” is the main attraction to India by many of the foreign countries. Like USA, India is also a Federal Union where almost all of its states carries different Language, different cultural identities. That is why it is known as a sub-continent.

 Indian civilization is ancient

 The Indus Valley Civilization was one of the first civilizations on earth

 The Vedic period was a time in Indian history when the Hindu religion and caste system began in India

 Mughal Empire was the last and the strongest Islamic empire in India

National Identity Elements

Indians of all demographics backgrounds across the world are proud of these National Symbols as they infuse a sense of pride and patriotism in every Indian's heart.

National Flag

National Bird

National Flower

National Tree

National Anthem

State Emblem

National Calendar

National Animal

National Song

Currency Symbol

India is mainly classified into four major sections

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.North India:  New Delhi: | 2. Eastern India: Kolkata: | 3. Western India: Mumbai: | 4. South India: Chennai: |

Here in India, we see people in,

 People with different clothing

 People with different religions

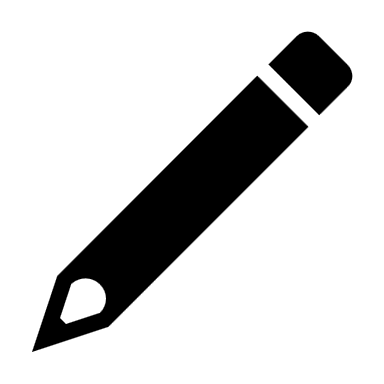
 People with different foods

 People with different celebrations

 People living in different localities like Urban, Semi-urban, Rural

National Anthem

(video)



India is a diverse nation with many different cultures. Although there are some eating habits that are considered staples of Indian cuisine, these habits may not be practiced by all the cultures of India. Cuisine differs across India’s diverse regions as a result of variation in local culture, geographical location (proximity to sea, desert, or mountains), and economics. It also varies seasonally, depending on which fruits and vegetables are ripe. Also, Middle Eastern and Central Asian influences have occurred on North Indian cuisine from the years of Mughal rule. Indian cuisine is still evolving, as a result of the nation’s cultural interactions with other societies.

Eating habits of the Indian culture are based on culinary traditions. Most dishes feature meat or vegetables mixed with sauce and rice. Many Indians are vegetarian, so eating habits are often based on a diet that excludes all meat. When meat is incorporated in dishes, it is most commonly in the form of chicken, beef or lamb, and sometimes seafood, such as prawns. The majority of the Indian population is Hindu, so beef and pork are often excluded from Indian dishes due to religious requirements.

Indian people across the nation eat different food as per their geographical availability.

 Vegetables

 Seafood

 Masala-spices

 Rice

 Tea, Coffee

The most commonly used and important spices include: Black mustard (sarso), cumin (scars), cardamom (elaichi), chili pepper (mirch), turmeric (haldi), garlic (lehsun), coriander (dhania), ginger (adrak), asafetida (hing) and garam masala. Rose petal essences, nutmeg, saffron and cardamon are mostly used to flavor sweet dishes.

29 signature dishes of 29 states

1. Misal Pav- Maharashtra
2. Makki di roti and sarson da sag-punjab
3. Kosha mangso-westbengal
4. Dhokla -gujrat
5. Rogan josh-kashmir
6. Pongal-tamilnadu
7. Papaya Khar- <br> Assam
8. Litti Chowkha- <br>Bihar
9. Dham- <br>Himachal Pradesh
10. Pootharekulu-<br>Andhra Pradesh
11. Biriyani- <br>Telanga
12. Fish curry-<br>Goa
13. Kafuli-<br>Uttarakhand
14. Chawkhi-<br>Tripura
15. Kangsoi-<br>Manipur
16. Jadoh-<br>Meghalaya
17. Sadhya-<br>Kerala
18. Bhutte ka Kees- <br>Madhya Pradesh
19. Dal Bati Churma- <br>Rajasthan
20. Bajre ki Khichuri-<br>Haryana
21. Thukpa-<br>Arunachal Pradesh
22. Momos-<br>Sikkim
23. Bisi Bele Bath-<br>Karnataka
24. Pork with Bamboo <br>Shoots-Nagaland
25. Misa Mash Pura-<br>Mizoram
26. Chenna Poda-<br>Oddisa
27. Chila-<br>Chattisgarh
28. Rugda-<br>Jharkhand
29. Kabab-<br>Uttar Pradesh



Religion in India is characterised by a diversity of religious beliefs and practices. The Indian subcontinent is the birthplace of four of the world's major religions; namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. With this people in India also follows Christianity, Islam also.

HINDUISM:

**Hindu Trinity Devas**

1.brahma the creator

2.vishnu the preserver

3.shiva the destroyer

**Hindu trinity devis**

1.saraswati the goddess of learning

2.laxmi the goddess of wealth and grains

3.parvati the goddess of divine strength and power.

There are 7 core believes in hinduism

.1. Believe in a one universal soul : Hindu’s believe in a one universal soul called Brahma.A formless , gender less source of all reality . Brahman is the universal and the marterial reality.

2. Believe in an immortal and individual soul. Souls are known as aatma in Hinduism. Action of the soul while in a body have effects on that souls next life. When someone dies the soul moves to a new body. This is called transmigration.

3. Believe in karma : Karma is a action that effects in our society

4. Believe in moksha : The goal in a hindu life is to somehow get back to brahman.

5. Believe in Veda: The Vedas are the sacret book of Hinduism of knowledge. There are 4 Vedas.

6. believe in cyclical time: for hindus there are no beginning or ending. Time is a series of circle. With Each cycle contains four yugas. Krita treta dwapara and kali.

7. believe in dharma: dharma maintaince the balance in the universe.

BUDDHISM:

The founder of Buddhism: Goutam buddha

It is one of the oldest civilisation started 2500 years ago in india. It is world fourth largest religion with 520 million followers.

Four nobel truths of buddhism.

* Life is dukkha
* Dukkha is caused by desire
* There is an end of dukkha
* The eight fold path

1. View
2. Thought
3. Speech
4. Action
5. Livelihood
6. Effort
7. Mindfulness
8. Concentration

Jainism

* World’s most peace full religion
* Founder: Mahavir
* Eight core ideas of Jainism

1. Three jewels
2. Karma
3. Ahimsa
4. Monks and nuns
5. Anekantavada
6. Samsara and moksha
7. Regular jains
8. Jainism

Sikhism

* The word Sikh means learner.
* Founder: Guru Nanak
* The Sikhs follows the teachings of 10 great Gurus who shaped Sikhism.
* The important guru is Guru Nanak.
* The most core belives of Sikhism is One god.

Islam



Important Historical Monuments in India

One of the most enduring achievements of Indian civilization is it’s architecture.as a result of vast divercity, a vast range of architectural specimens have evolved, retaining a certain amount of continuity across history.

Types of architecture

1. Colonial architecture
2. Indo islamic architecture
3. Ancient architecture
4. Cave architecture
5. Rock cut architecture
6. Temple architecture

Colonial architecture

Like other suspect of society, the colonization of India also had a great impact on architecture.in the beginning of the colonial rule there were attempts at creating authority through classical prototypes.in its later phase the colonial architecture culminated into called Indo -Saracenic architecture. (it combines the features of hindu, Islamic and western elements.)

The colonial architecture exhibited itself through institutional, civic and utilitarian buildings such as post-office railway stations, rest houses and government buildings.

Examples,

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| Santhome Church,Chennai  All Saints Cathedral, Allahabad  St. George's Cathedral, Chennai  Gole Market, New Delhi |  |  |  |
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Indo – Islamic Architecture

The medieval period saw great developments in the field of architecture. With the coming of Muslims to India, many new features came to be introduced in buildings. The development of Muslim Style of Architecture of this period can be called the Indo-Islamic Architecture or the Indian Architecture influenced by Islamic Art.

Examples,

Examples:

Qutub Minar, New Delhi

Agra Fort, Agra

Taj Mahal, Agra

Red Fort, New Delhi

Ancient Architecture

Indian architecture is as old as the history of the civilization. The earliest remains of recognizable building activity in the India dates back to the Indus Valley cities. Among India's ancient architectural remains, the most characteristic are the temples, Chaityas, Viharas, Stupas and other religious structures.

The distinct architectural styles of temple constructions in different parts was a result of geographical, climatic, ethnic, racial, historical and linguistic diversities.

Examples,

Akshardham Temple, Delhi

Virupaksha Temple, Karnataka

Karla Caves, Maharashtra

Ellora Caves, Maharashtra

Cave Architecture

The cave architecture in India is believed to have begun during the ancient time. These caves were used by Buddhist and Jain monks as places of worship and residence .

Examples

Mahabalipuram, Tamilnadu

Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra

Bhaja Caves, Maharashtra

Bedse Caves, Maharashtra

Rock Cut

The Rock-cut structures present the most spectacular piece of ancient Indian art specimen. Most of the rock-cut structures were closely associated with various religions and religious activities. In the beginning, remarkable Buddhist and Jain rock-cut structures were built in areas such as Bihar in the east and Maharashtra in the west. Numerous caves were excavated by the Buddhist monks for prayer and residence purposes. The best example of this is Chaityas (prayer halls) and viharas (monasteries).

Examples:

Kailasa temple, Ellora

Pancha Rathas, Mahabalipuram

Barabar Caves, Bihar

Badami Cave Temples, Karnataka

Temple Architecture

In ancient India, temple architecture of high standard developed in almost all regions. The distinct architectural style of temple construction in different parts was a result of geographical, climatic, ethnic, racial, historical and linguistic diversities. Ancient Indian temples are classified in three broad types. This classification is based on different architectural styles, employed in the construction of the temples. Three main style of temple architecture are the Nagara or the Northern style, the Dravida or the Southern style and the Vesara or Mixed style. But at the same time there are also some regional styles of Bengal, Kerala and the Himalayan areas.

Examples:

Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur

Jagadamba Temple, Madhya Pradesh

Sun Temple, Modhera

Konark Sun Temple, Orissa



Indian classical music is a rich tradition that originated in South Asia and can now be found in all corners of the world. It’s origins date back to sacred Vedic scriptures over 6,000 years ago where chants developed a system of musical notes and rhythmic cycles.

During the medieval period, Indian classical music was generally based on two traditions,- 1.the Carnatic music prevalent in South India and.2. the Hindustani classical music in North India.

Hindustani and Carnatic Music

* Indian Music is part of Art and culture which have a rich legacy.
* Before the 13th Century, there was only one classical music in India.
* The history of Indian music can be derived from Natya Shastra, written by Bharatha Muni, a Musicologist. The Natyashastra deals with the basic theory of Music, dance and drama called “Natya Shastra’. Under this, there were 22 notes in an octave. The idea of ‘Sruti’ was presented to permit individuals to select a suitable reference ‘root’ pitch based on the musicians’ ease. A set of ‘Rasas’ and ‘Bhavas’ or expressions were recognized.
* Post 13th Century Classical Music has been separated into two different styles. In North India, Persian and Mughal influence began creating its place very intensely with Amir Khusro.
* Tansen and his contemporary musicians mostly performed in Dhrupad sort and later Khayal singing was promoted by Sadarang and Adarang.
* Carnatic Music was evolved mainly by Shyama Shastri, Tyagraja, Muthuswamy Dikshitar, and Saint Purandardas.
* Currently, most of the classical training revolves around Kritis composed by these great saint musicians.

Instruments

Violin

Tanpura

Sarangi

Saraswati Veena

Rudra Veena

Harmonium

Flute

Tabla.

Dholak. ...

Dhol. ...

Jal Tarang

**Dance**

Indian classical dance, otherwise known as Shastriya Nritya, is a term for various performance arts rooted in religious Hindu musical theatre styles, whose theory and practice can be traced to the Sanskrit text Natya Shastra.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi recognizes eight forms of dances as classical. They are

Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathakali, Sattriya, Manipuri and Mohiniyattam.

These dances are traditionally regional, all of them include music and recitation in local language or Sanskrit, and they represent a unity of core ideas in a diversity of styles, costumes and expression.

Bharatnatyam

1.Bharatnatyam is one of the most popular classical Indian dances.

2.Bharatnatyam dance is almost 2,000 years old.

3.It is believed that Bharatnatyam was revealed by Lord Brahma to Bharata, a famous sage who then codified this sacred dance in a Sanskrit text called the Natya Shastra.

Kathak

1.Kathak is one of the most important classical dances of India.

2.Kathak is said to be derived from the word katha, meaning "the art of storytelling."

3.

29 signature dishes of 29 states

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2. Makki di roti and sarson da sag-

3. Kosha mangso-l

4. Dhokla -

5. Rogan josh-

6. Pongal-

7. Papaya Khar- <br>

8. Litti Chowkha- <br>

9. Dham- <br>

10. Pootharekulu-<br>

11. Biriyani- <br>

12. Fish curry-<br>

13. Kafuli-<br>

14. Chawkhi-<br>

15. Kangsoi-<br>

16. Jadoh-<br>

17. Sadhya-<br>

18. Bhutte ka Kees- <br>

19. Dal Bati Churma- <br>

20. Bajre ki Khichuri-<br>

21. Thukpa-<br>

22. Momos-<br>

23. Bisi Bele Bath-<br>

24. Pork with Bamboo <br>Shoots-

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| Karnataka |
| kashmir |
| Kerala |
| Madhya Pradesh |
| Maharashtra |
| Manipur |
| meghalaya |
| Mizoram |
| Nagaland |
| Oddisa |
| punjab |
| rajasthan |
| Sikkim |
| tamilnadu |
| Telangana |
| Tripura |
| Uttar pradesh |
| Uttarakhand |
| westbengal |