

# Know India

A brief introduction to India for the  
Know India Contest

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# The Magic of India

*"So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone either by man or by 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**

The India that the author Mark Twain visited and loved so well still exists today. It offers a world of mystery, adventure, and romance. From the Taj Mahal to the Bengal Tigers, India is a land of intrigue.

More than 5,000 years of continuous civilizations have left a historical legacy that includes, temples, mosques, fortresses palaces, sculpture, music, art, and dance. The rich cultural tradition boasts an unequaled heritage of art and craftsmanship that has been passed down from generation to generation. The people are warm and friendly and their hospitality is legendary.



# Geography

India is the 7th largest country in the world in land area, roughly one third the size of the United States. Northern India consists of the Himalayan and the Karakoram Mountain ranges. Long ago these mountains formed a shield from the rest of Asia, allowing India to develop its own unique identity. At the foot of these mountains lies a fertile plain that soaks up water from the sacred

Ganges River. To the southwest lies the Thar Desert. The Vindhya and Satpura mountain ranges separate the Southern peninsula of India from the Northern plain.

The Deccan Plateau covers the center of the peninsula and is bound by the Ghat Mountain range. The peninsula is surrounded by the Arabian sea to the west, the Indian Ocean in the south, and the Bay of Benegal in the east. The coastlines of Southern India played an important role in India's trade with the world.



## Rivers

Rivers are considered sacred and vital to India's civilization. The Ganges, Yamuna and Godavari are the major rivers of India. Narmada, Kaveri, Krishna, Tapti, Mahanadi, Saryu, and Saraswati, are some other important rivers.

## Climate

There are three seasons in India: a cool winter, hot summer (March–June), and a rainy monsoon season. However, conditions change depending on one's location. Temperatures are fairly high in India, except in the cool mountains. October through February are good months for tourism because the temperature ranges from 70 degrees Fahrenheit (in Delhi) to 83 degrees Fahrenheit (in Bombay). Indians measure temperature on the Celsius scale.

## Mineral Resources

The Indian subcontinent is rich in minerals. It has deposits of almost all metal ores, especially iron. Also, India has coal, oil, diamonds, copper, and semi-precious stones.

## Agriculture and Forestry

Forest yielding ebony, mahogany, teak, and bamboo cover one-half of India. Farmland covers about one-half of the total area. Agriculture, forestry and fishing employ about 70 percent of the work force.

## Plants

Nature has been generous to India. Dense tropical rainforests are filled with evergreens, palms, banyans, sandalwood, walnut trees, orchids, and carnivorous plants.

# Animals & People

## Animals.

Exotic wild animals include apes, antelopes, water buffaloes, cobras, crocodiles, pythons, elephants, rhinoceroses, flying squirrels, leopards, lions, bears, and the Bengal tiger.



## Population and Language

At 1 billion and increasing daily, India has the second largest population in the world. Only 30 percent of the people live in cities. The population is very diverse: those in northern and central India speak Indo-European languages such as Hindi, Bengali and Gujarati; those in southern India speak Dravidian languages such as Tamil and Telugu. There are 15 major languages and 500 dialects spoken in India. Hindi and English are the official languages.



# History

India has a long and rich history, which goes back 5,000 years to the Indus Valley Civilization. Excavations of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro have revealed highly developed ancient cultures that had public and private wells and streets.

Around 2000 B.C., the native Dravidian peoples and Aryan nomads from central Asia merged and formed the culture of present-day India. Since then, this land has been the home of great dynasties, wealth, literature, science, architecture, and the arts. The religion of Hinduism began growing with the dawn of the Vedic Age (1500 B.C.—800 B.C.).

Legends of India spread across the world and brought Alexander the Great to its frontiers in 326 B.C. However, Alexander respected Indian cultural traditions and retreated, leaving behind a small part of his army to blend in with Indian society.

The Maurya Empire was founded in 332 B.C. by Chandragupta and lasted a very long time. Hindu states formed in eastern India in 100 B.C.

The reign of the Gupta kingdom ran from 300 A.D. to 500 A.D., it is India's golden age of science, literature, and art. At this time, major universities, which had already existed for several hundred years at Nalanda, Benares, Taxila, and Ujjain, became more advanced. Kalidasa, a brilliant poet from this era, is still read by Indians today.

The Chalukya dynasty ruled southern India in 700 A.D. At that time, the Muslims invaded India and introduced the religion of Islam. From 700 A.D. to 1700 A.D., Arab, Turk and Afghan Muslims ruled northern India.

The British arrived in India in 1612. They came to this splendid and culturally rich country for commercial reason, but ended up ruling it for 200 years. India won its independence in 1947. Mahatma Gandhi was an influential leader of the Independence movement. He preached the values of nonviolent civil disobedience. Gandhi inspired Civil Rights leaders like Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., with his philosophy. Before leaving India, the British divided India into India and Pakistan. On August 15, 1947, India became an independent country.



# Government

India is the largest democratic republic in the world. The constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950. It guarantees all citizens the right to justice, liberty and equality. Every citizen over the age of 21 has the right to vote, regardless of race, religion, caste, creed or gender.

The government is a federal republic, combining the British parliamentary system and the American state system. As in the United States, there are three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial.

Although, the President is the head of the country, the Prime Minister holds the real power. Members of the parliament and legislatures elect the President. The length of the presidential term is five years. The leader of the majority party is the head of the executive branch and is known as Prime Minister.

The parliament has two houses: Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by state legislators and serve a six year term. The members of the Lok Sabha are elected by a public vote and serve for five years.

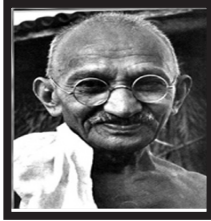
The organization of government at the state level is just like that at the country level. There are 28 states and 7 union territories.

The villages of India are run according to an ancient democratic system. Voters elect 5 to 15 members, including women, for the panchayat. The panchayat is the governing body of the village. Members are elected every five years. The system represents a grassroots political tradition in Indian villages. Everyday people have a chance to govern.



# Important Leaders

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)



Gandhi was known to his people as a Bapuji, father. He gave up his material wealth to lead a spiritual life. He dedicated the last 31 years of his life to freeing India from Britain. As Nehru said, "He did not descend from the top, he seemed to emerge from the millions of India." He was strongly attuned to the people and felt the pain of his nation. His belief in truth and ethical behavior in all aspects of life, including politics, strengthened India's spirit. He provided a model of ideal moral leadership and proved to the world that high principles and nonviolence can be a working solution. He was truly a great soul— a mahatma. His birthday, October 2nd, is celebrated throughout India and the world.

Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

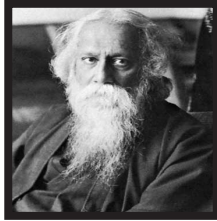


She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 because she helped people everywhere. She is well known for her missions in Kolkata (Calcutta), where she consoled the suffering and dying. She was not born in India, but became a citizen of India in 1948.



# Important Leaders (continued)

Rabindranath Tagore-(1861-1941)



Tagore was a great writer, painter, poet, and patriot. In 1913, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for his famous collection of poems. He was well loved because he wrote in the language of the common people. He was also the author of the Indian National Anthem and an early proponent of an independent India. To protest the British-led Amritsar massacre of 400 Indian demonstrators in 1919, he renounced the Knighthood that had been given to him by the British crown four years earlier.

Sarojini Naidu (1879-1949)



A brilliant student at Cambridge and a well-known poet, she was one of the first women to actively enter politics. She became an eminent leader and inspiration to other women.

# Important Leaders(continued)

Swami Vivekanand (1863-1902)



A disciple of Ramaakrishna, a religious leader, he defined God as the “totality of all souls”. He gave a speech at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893. In this speech he said that all religions are really united into one. This message and his simple idea that human service was the best worship of God won many followers all over the world.

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1888-1975)



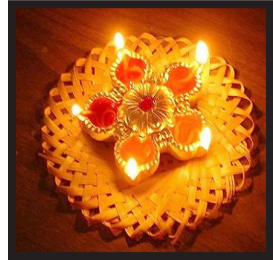
He was a famous philosopher. His works include “Indian Philosophy”, “The Philosophy of Upanishads”, “Eastern Religions and Western Thought”, and “East and West—Some Reflections”. He tried to help westerners understand and accept Indian Philosophy. He was the chancellor of many universities and President of India from 1962-1967. His birthday, September 5, is celebrated as Teacher’s Day.

# Map of India



# Festivals & Holidays

India is a land of continuous festivals all through the year. Many of these festivals are held according to the season of the moon. These secular traditions enrich India with a variety of celebrations, which have different seasonal, regional, national, and religious themes



**PONGAL/LOHRI** is celebrated on January 14th after the winter solstice and as such this Pongal festival marks the favorable course of the Sun. In South India it is called Pongal, and in the north it is called Lohri. It is believed that the forefather created a secret mantra (hymn) which protected the people from the cold. This mantra made the sun god send them so much heat that the winter cold could not affect them. Pongal is celebrated by chanting the mantra around a fire and is almost like our Halloween. Children go from house to house singing and are given either money or , bhuga, til, moongphali, and gur.

**HOLI** is the festival of joy and getting to know one another. It is held all over the country from February through March. Every man, woman, and child throw colored water on each other to celebrate the spring and new harvests. Holi is celebrated when the winter crop is ripe, corn ears are golden and the farmers are thankful and hopeful. On Holi night, people gather around a pile of logs, beat drums, and dance.

**BAISAKI** is the Hindu Solar New Year observed in India and Tamill Nadu on April 13th. People bath in rivers and go to temples for worship. The colorful and vigorous Bhangra dance is often seen in villages.

# Festivals & Holidays (continued)

**BUDDHA PURNIMA** is the most sacred and important festival for Buddhists. On the full moon in April or May, Lord Buddha was born. He attained enlightenment in his lifetime and Nirvana when he died. This strange three-fold coincidence makes Buddha Purnima unique. Just as paper lanterns are hung in homes on Diwali, Buddhists make Vaisakhi Vakats of bamboo. They put stars on them and use these to decorate their homes. Because Buddha attained enlightenment while sitting under a bodhi tree, special care is given to these trees.

**DUSSEHRA** symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. It is celebrated for 10 days and 10 nights. In northern India, the Ramlila, vivid enactments of scenes from Ramayana dominate all 10 days of the celebration. The reenactment is the story of the noble Prince Rama and his brother Prince Laksmana who rescue the kidnapped Princess Sita from the demon King Ravana. The highlight of the celebration is the burning of a large statue of Ravana and the triumphant reunion of Rama and Princess Sita.

**DIWALI** is celebrated in October or November, 20 days after Dussehra. It is held all over India in honor of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity. It is believed that Lakshmi only enters homes that are clean and spotless. Weeks before the festival, people clean houses, paint walls and polish furniture. It is held on a moonless night, which is lit bright with lanterns. People honor Lakshmi by feasting.

**CHRISTMAS** marks the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th. Churches are decorated and followers of Christ bring small gifts to the altar for those poorer than themselves.

**Id-ul-Fitr & Id-ul-Zuha** is a Muslim festival. Every year there are at least two important ids. They fall on the ninth lunar month, Ramadan. During these times, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. They cannot eat, drink or indulge in any pleasures. They recite special prayers from the Koran, the holy book, throughout the month.

# Urban India

Since India's independence from British rule in 1947, The country has embarked on a series of five-year industrial plans to boost the economy. Approximately 28 million jobs were created in this period. Devoted Indian citizens paid 95% of the plan's cost. Central government planning 1950 through late 1970s giving way to economic reforms and more private-sector initiatives in 1980s and 1990s.

Agriculture predominates and benefits from infusion of modern technology by government. World Bank Group and developed nations provide most aid; Japan largest donor. Major trade partners United States, Japan, European Union, and nations belonging to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

## Major Cities

The capital is New Delhi. Other major cities include Mumbai (Bombay), Chennai (Madras), Kolkata (Calcutta), Bangalore, and Hyderabad. Locate these cities on the map.

## Industry

India is among the ten most industrialized nations in the world. The best-developed industries are in software engineering, petrochemicals, electronics, and the production of building materials. India manufactures everything from ships and airplanes to computers, machines, software, tea, coffee, and spices. The jute, cotton, textile, silk, and paper industries are also very important. Traditional production of carpets, woodwork, and jewelry still support many Indians. Pretty handcrafts can still be seen in malls across America.



# Urban India (Continued)

India has its own space program, intended to connect people all over the world. It has rocket-launch facilities and ground stations. Many of the satellites have been built in India. Technological abilities match the real needs of everyday people through programs like Application of Science and Technology to Rural Areas (ASTRA).

## Transportation

India has the largest railroad system in Asia. It is the leading means of transportation, followed by waterways and roads. Several Airlines connect India's. Many foreign airlines serve India's major airports from around the world. In the cities, people travel by busses, cars, taxis, scooters, and bikes. Many Indians ride rickshaws, a bike pulling a buggy. However, you may still encounter elephants and age-old bullock- carts.



# India & the U.S.

India, the largest democracy in the world, and the United States have a lot in common. The basic belief in democracy and freedom bind the two countries. Since General Washington sent the first American Consul to India, many famous Americans such as Mark Twain and President Kennedy have visited and have been impressed by its culture. Among Indians of note who visited America are Tagore, Swami Vivekanand and Dr. Radhakrishnan.

Today there are 2.3 million people of Indian origin living in the United States. Many Indian professionals, such as engineers, doctors and scientists work in America and teach at universities. They make significant contributions to our society. About 750 high-technology companies in Silicon Valley in California are run by people of Indian origin.

## Indian Influences in America

One can visit many places that have Indian influence here in the U.S., such as temples and restaurants. Martin Luther King was highly influenced by Gandhi's non-violent ways. The founder and creator of hotmail, Chief Executives of Citibank, Mckensey & Standard Chartered, President of AT&T- Bell, are all Indians.

Other bits of info about Indians in the USA:

- 38% of doctors in the USA are of Indian origin.
- 12% of scientists are of Indian origin.
- 36% of NASA scientists are of Indian origin.
- 34% of Microsoft employees are of Indian origin.

# Education

Education has always been given great importance in Indian culture. The teacher or Guru is highly respected. Traditionally, learning was done orally. In the Gurukul system of ancient times, the pupils would live with their teacher until they completed their studies, like a boarding school.

The government provides public school for children up to the age of 14, after that they must pay a small fee. However, many students in the cities go to private schools and wear uniforms. Morning prayer and assembly are part of their daily routine.

Indian students learn the same things that students in the United States; subjects like geography, history, mathematics, science, and social studies. English and Hindi are required languages. Some schools also teach the regional language. After high school, students are encouraged to attend the many colleges and universities located all over the country.

Yet, illiteracy continues to persist in the remote countryside of India. Indian peasants should not be regarded as uneducated or uncultured because they have the wisdom of the ancient civilization. Many can recite passages from the epics and retain the great traditions of craftsmanship, art and folklore. "The Indian peasants, though illiterate in the Western sense, are among the most cultured of their class in the world." said E.B. Howell.

Today India has a 61% literacy rate and the world's third largest force of technically and scientifically trained personnel.



# People of India

From coast to coast, there are differences in languages and custom, in food habits and religion and in complexion and in lifestyle. Yet, through this remarkable variety, there runs some common threads.

## Population and Language

At 1.2 billion and increasing daily, India has the second largest population in the world. Only 30 percent of the people live in cities. The population is very diverse: those in northern and central India speak Indo-European languages such as Hindi, Bengali and Gujarati; those in southern India speak Dravidian languages such as Tamil and Telugu. There are 15 major languages and 500 dialects spoken in India. Hindi and English are the official languages

## Housing

Housing is adapted to India's climate and location. Hot weather has led to building shade-producing devices. The kind of housing also depends on one's financial status. The people take cover under huge Peepal and Banyan trees or in homes made of mud. The roof is made of braided palm leaves that allow natural ventilation.

Middle class homes have slanting roofs covered with earthenware tiles. The rich people have screens, patios, ventilators and marble floors in their palace-like bungalows and mansions. Air conditioners and refrigerators are commonly used in the homes of the rich.

## Cuisine

India offers a diverse range of foods. Every region has its own refreshing food to delight the palate. Barbecued, grilled, curried or fried meats, seafood, lentil curries, yogurt, salads, and pickles are the basic foods of an Indian meal.

More than half of the people in India are vegetarians. To consume the protein that they need, they eat a lot of lentils. The rice is boiled plain, fried, or spiced and served as pilafs of biryanis in mouth-watering variations. The wheat

# People of India (continued)

is kneaded into dough to prepare a wide range of different breads. Deep-fried bread is called a Puri. Bread baked on a griddle is called Chapati. The rice and bread are eaten in a multi-course meal with a variety of meat, fish, lentils, and vegetable dishes.

For desert, one can choose from a wide variety of milk sweets, syrups, fudge, candies, and sundaes.

## Clothing

In the cities and metropolitan areas, one can see Indians in Western dress like that worn by Americans. However, in the rest of the country native clothes that are more suited to the warm climate are worn. Most men wear a loose shirt called a kurta and pants called a dhoti or a pajama. Women wear a sari, ideal for summer as well as the cooler months. Women usually wear jewelry and paint a bindi on their foreheads. Traditionally, the bindi was a mark of marital status. Today a red dot can be worn for fashion.

## Status of Women

Women hold important positions in various fields. They contribute to national development and are active in politics. For example, Indira Gandhi, Nehru's daughter, was the prime minister for 14 years and few states have women as their Chief Minister. As in the United States, many problems still exist and more needs to be done to truly raise women to equal status.

## Marriage

Indian society is still largely traditional. Custom discourages public display of affection and dating are slowly becoming acceptable. Marriage is often arranged by parents with the couple's consent.

## Caste and Class

Originally Indian society was divided into four castes or classes; priests, warrior, merchant, and service providers. Today the caste system is not as strong in the cities. The constitution recognizes everyone as equal. It is now illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of caste.

# Painting, Architecture & Sculpture

Many colorful and magnificent paintings can be seen in the frescoes at Ajanta. In the countryside, there are temples of all religions and exquisite buildings. The Taj Mahal is one of the Seven Wonders of The World. It was built by Shah Jehan as a memorial to his wife around 1632 A.D.

South India has some of the oldest Jewish synagogues in the world, build 400 to 500 years ago when the Jews fled to India to escape persecution in Europe.

The famous statue of 'dancing Shiva" is an example of 12th century Indian art.

Some Famous Buildings:

Structure	Built	Location
Taj Mahal	1631–1653	Agra
Elephanta	450-750	Mumbai
Purana Qila	1538-1545	Delhi
Charminar Arch	1591-1592	Hyderabad
Shree Meenakshi Temple	1623-1635	Madurai
Red Forts	1638-1648	Delhi & Agra
Hawa Mahal	1799	Jaipur
Victoria Memorial	1906-1921	Kalkutta



(Elephanta)



# Recreation & Arts

Apart from festivals and the classical arts, many activities occupy the average Indian's leisure time. Folk songs, dances, film, games, television, field hockey, cricket and soccer are usual pastimes.

## Music and Dance

Classical music follows two systems; the Northern Hindustani and Southern Karnatak. Both conform to certain melody groups called ragas. Each raga has its own distinctive character to which the artist adds his or her own inspiration. Ragas relate to specific times of day or season and evoke certain moods.

A great variety of instruments are played including the sitar, sarangi, veena, santoor, tanpura, and sarod, which are all string instruments. The flute and shehnai are wind instruments and the tabla and mridangam are percussion. To hear the beautiful and mysterious melodies of the sitar, one might listen to Ravi Shankar. He made Indian music popular in the west.

There are many classical types of dance. The Bharat Natyam and Kathak are the most well known. Besides the classical dances, there are many traditional folk dances.

## Religion

The Vedic Age from 1800 to 800 B.C. produced many great writings, which were the great religious foundations of Hinduism. The four Vedas, Upanishads, Brahmanas, and great epics of Mahabharata and the Ramayana, are still read as the guide to the Hindu religion and life. About 84% of the population are Hindus. Sikhism and Jainism are offshoots of the Hinduism. Buddhism was born in India around 566 B.C. with the birth of Buddha. Guatama Buddha died in 487 B.C. During King Ashok's reign a couple of hundred years later, the religion of Buddhism flourished and even spread to Egypt, Syria, Sri Lanka, China, and Japan. Many different religions freely exist in India. 12% of the population is Islamic. Judaism, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism are among the other major religions practiced in India.

## Philosophy

Indian thought is rich and varied. Many famous people around the world have been influenced by India's way of thinking. Americans, like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau, have been moved by Indian philosophy.

# Bollywood Films

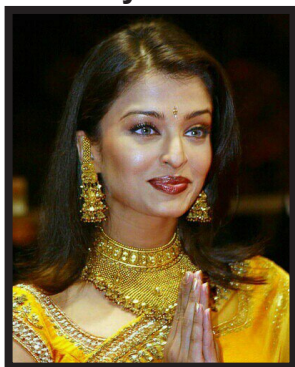
The Bombay film industry, or Bollywood as it is commonly known, has become internationally renowned for churning out more films to and selling more tickets than for a much lower cost than United States own Hollywood.

Bollywood films can be characterized by the Hindustani word masala, which literally means spice mixture, but in this case represents the various influences and kinds of entertainment presented in a Bollywood production. Bollywood films are musicals with comedy, dancing, love triangles and exciting action all at once.

These three hour extravaganzas captivate audiences all over the world with their epic tales and uniquely India brand of storytelling.

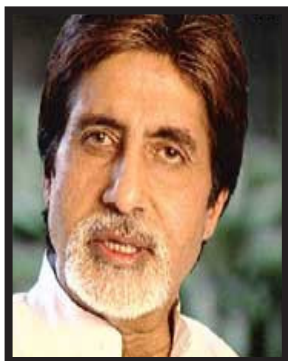
## Bollywood Stars

### Aishwarya Rai Bachchan



Aishwarya is often called the most beautiful woman in the world, and actually won the Miss World contest in 1994. Since then she has proven herself to be much more than a pretty face. Aishwarya is an internationally renowned actress. Her performance in the film Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam won her the Filmfare Best Actress Award. She recently starred in the English film, The Last Legion, alongside actor Colin Firth.

### Amitabh Bachchan



Amitabh Bachchan is the undisputed king of Indian cinema. Since his debut in the 1969 film, Bachchan has performed in over 90 films, won three National Film Awards, and 12 Filmfare Awards. Not only was Bachchan a great actor but he was also a politician. He served as an elected member of the Indian Parliament from 1984 to 1987. Although he is widely perceived as India's greatest action hero from performances in films like Zanjeer, Bachchan also had great comedic timing seen in films like Amar Akbar.

# Popular Modern Music

Despite popular belief, people of Indian descent are very active in popular music today. And traditional Indian music has influenced all genres of music from Rock n' Roll to Hip Hop. Here are just a few examples of India's contribution to the world of popular music:

## M.I.A



M.I.A is a popular artist of Sri Lankan origin. She is also a Fashion Designer, Singer, Artist and Record Producer. She was featured in Time Magazine's "Most Influential People" in 2009. Her political driven lyrics inspired by her childhood have become chart-topping hits and she has been nominated for Grammy and Academy Awards.

## Ravi Shankar

Ravi Shankar is an Indian classical musician and composer who is known for playing the Sitar. He toured the world and gained popularity during the 1960's. He is known for his influence over many musicians such as George Harrison of The Beatles. In the late 80's Ravi became a member of the Indian Parliament and was awarded the highest civilian honor.



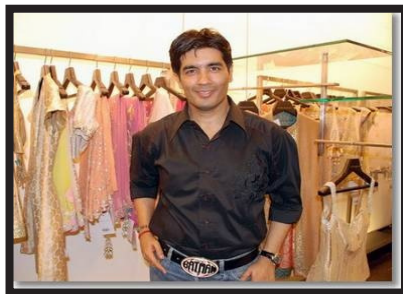
# Modern Indian Fashion Designers

Ritu Beri



A graduate of the Institute of Fashion Technology in Delhi, Ritu Beri is a very successful Indian designer. She is the first Asian designer to head the French brand Scherrer. She uses her cultural heritage as inspiration for her collections and has made enormous strides for Indian women in the Fashion Industry.

Manish Malhotra



Manish Malhotra is considered to be India's most successful Fashion Designer. He has designed costumes for over forty popular Bollywood films as well as designing an outfit for Michael Jackson. In 2005, Manish began his own talk show.

# Facts About India

Area: 1,269,339 square miles (1/3 the size of the U.S.)

Population: 1,200,000,000 people

Currency: Indian, Rupee (\$1 = 45 Rupees)

National Emblem: Four Lions back to back on a circular abacus. It is an ancient symbol denoting courage. The motto inscribed below means "Truth Always Triumphs".

National Anthem: "Jana Gana Mana" by Rabindranath Tagore

National Bird: Peacock

National Flower: Lotus



Flag of India



# Hindi Words

Hello/ Goodbye	Namaste
Thank you	Shukriya, Dhanayawad
Please	Meharbani Se ,Kripya
No	Nahi
Yes	Han
How are you?	Aap kaise hai?
Very well, thank you.	Bilkul theek, dhanayawad.
Do you understand English?	Kya ap angrezi samajte hai?
What is your name?	Apka naam kya hai?

## English words derived from Hindi:

Pajama	Jungle	Punch
Bandit	Yogi	Curry
khaki	Brahmin	Shampoo
Hindu	Mantra	Saffron
Nirvana	Monsoon	Pilaf
Guru	Karma	Thug
Pundit		

## Count to Ten:

	Hindi	Tamil
1	Ek	onru
2	Do	irandu
3	Teen	moonru
4	Char	naangu
5	Panch	ainthu
6	Chhe	aaru
7	Sat	ezhu
8	Ath	ettu
9	Nau	onpathu
10	Das	pathu



# Label the Map

Himalaya Mountains

New Delhi

Indian Ocean

Mumbai

Arabian Sea

Kalkutta

Bangalore



# Dates to Remember

Event	Time Period
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The Aryans begin to come to India	about 2500 B.C
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Gautama Buddha is born	about 623 B.C.
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Ashoka begins his reign	273 B.C
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Work starts on the Taj Mahal	1632
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Freedom from British Rule	1947
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India becomes a Republic	1950
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# India's Future

In the last five decades, India has had a stable government and moved to a self-sustaining economy. Today students, farmers, businessmen, industrial workers, and homeowners form the middle class.

As in other countries, there will definitely be further social and economic changes. Like all countries, India has its own problems. Population growth continues at an uncontrollably high rate. Even though India has traditionally shown great religious tolerance, a few shortsighted and unscrupulous politicians and religious extremists continue to create problems that slow India's development and growth. India's state Kashmir is the center of a long standing feud with Pakistan. The ethnic and political differences cannot be ignored. Another concern is the increasing environmental problem.

However, there are many young educated people in the nation who can face such challenges. An awareness of deeply rooted traditions of tolerance and peace must come through. The challenges facing India are enormous but the nation is strong. As Jawarhalal Nehru once said, "Behind and within her battered body one would still glimpse a majesty of soul."



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Know India is part of an effort to develop a better relationship between the two largest democracies in the world, India and the United States. As you know, good relationships are based on knowledge and understanding. Through the Know India Contest, the Friends of India Endowment helps American children learn about India and its people and to appreciate the similarities and differences. Therefore, this educational venture will lay the foundation for generations to come. The children truly are the future for a growing global awareness and understanding.

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