

## Some interesting facts about India

1. Tirupati Balaji temple in Andhra Pradesh (South India) has more visitors each year than Vatican and Mecca combined.



2. India has more mosques than any other country (300,000 mosques).
3. By 2050 India will have the largest Muslim population in the world, overtaking Indonesia.





4. The Kumbha Mela (a religious gathering of Hindus) can be seen from space.



5. The world's first university was Taxila in India and was established in 700 B.C.





6. 70% of the world's spices come from India.

7. Indian Rail employs 1.3 million people.



8. India has the largest English speaking population in the world.

9. Indian scientists helped NASA discover water on the moon.

10. Ben Kingsley's birth name was Krishna Pandit Bhanji. His father, Rahimtulla Harji Bhanji, was of Gujarati Indian descent.

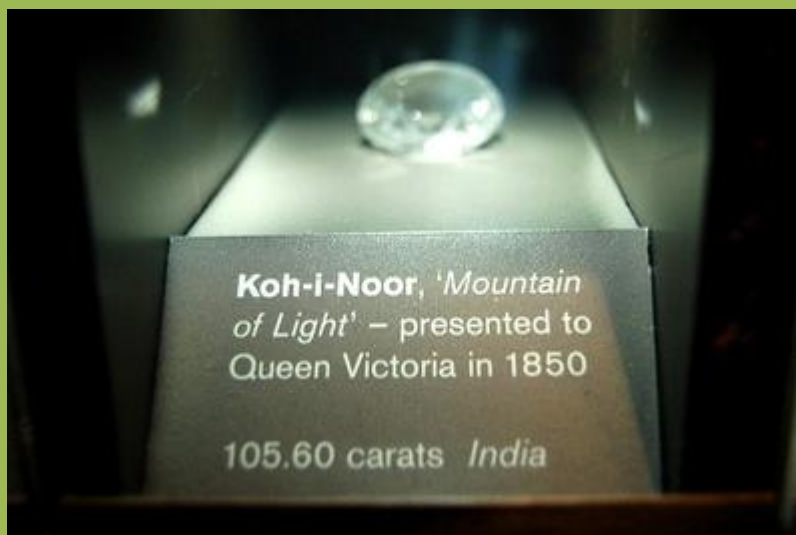
11. Shani Shingnapur village in Maharashtra has no doors and no police station.



12. India is the largest producer of movies in the world.



13. Till 19<sup>th</sup> century all the world's diamonds came from India.



14. Martial Arts started in India and were carried by Buddhists monks to other Asian countries.

15. India, USA & Japan are the only countries that make super computers.

16. India gave the world yoga 5000 years ago.



17. India is a third the size of USA with 2.59 sq km per 1000 people. It is bordered by the Himalayas along with a cold desert in the north, a hot desert and the Arabian Sea to the west, mangroves and the Bay of Bengal to the east and the Indian Ocean to the south.

18. The diversity in climate, architecture, costume, dance, music, food & customs, as also in the height, colour, language & script of the inhabitants from different parts of the country makes India more like a collection of cultures rather than a single entity.

19. From the complete name of a person you may find his father's name, name of the village, caste as also sage from which he has descended.

Unlike in the west where aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, grandmother & grandfather covers most members of the family, in India there is a separate name for every relative i.e. mother's sister, father's sister, your elder sister, your maternal grandfather and so on.

20. India is unique in that it is one of the oldest cultures in a very young country.

-Dr. Sumer Singh