

Republic of India



HISTORY

Home to the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation and a region of historic trade routes and vast empires, the Indian subcontinent was identified with its commercial and cultural wealth for much of its long history. Four religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism—originated here, whereas Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam arrived in the 1st millennium CE and also helped shape the region's diverse culture.

Gradually annexed by and brought under the administration of the British East India Company from the early 18th century and administered directly by the United Kingdom after Indian Rebellion of 1857, India became an independent nation in 1947 after a struggle for independence that was marked by non-violent resistance led by Mahatma Gandhi.



CULTURE

Indian cultural history spans more than 4,500 years. During the Vedic period (c. 1700 – 500 BCE), the foundations of Hindu philosophy, mythology, theology and literature were laid, and many beliefs and practices which still exist today, such as *dhárma*, *kárma*, *yóga*, and *mokṣa*, were established. India is notable for its religious diversity, with Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity, and Jainism among the nation's major religions. The predominant religion, Hinduism, has been shaped by various historical schools of thought, including those of the *Upanishads*, the *Yoga Sutras*, the *Bhakti* movement, and by Buddhist philosophy.



Much of Indian architecture, including the Taj Mahal, other works of Mughal architecture, and South Indian architecture, blends ancient local traditions with imported styles. Vernacular architecture is also highly regional in its flavours. *Vastu shastra*, literally "science of construction" or "architecture" and ascribed to Mamuni Mayan, explores how the laws of nature affect human dwellings; it employs precise geometry and directional alignments to reflect perceived cosmic constructs.

- In India, several traditional indigenous sports remain fairly popular, such as *kabaddi*, *kho kho*, *pehlwani* and *gilli-danda*. Some of the earliest forms of Asian martial arts, such as *kalarippayattu*, *musti yuddha*, *silambam*, and *marma adi*, originated in India. Chess, commonly held to have originated in India as *chaturāṅga*, is regaining widespread popularity with the rise in the number of Indian grandmasters. *Pachisi*, from which parcheesi derives, was played on a giant marble court by Akbar.



TOURISM



The tourism industry of India is economically important and is growing rapidly.

The Ministry of Tourism designs national policies for the development and promotion of tourism. In the process, the Ministry consults and collaborates with other stakeholders in the sector including various Central Ministries/agencies, state governments, Union Territories and the representatives of the private sector. Concerted efforts are being made to promote new forms of tourism such as rural, cruise, medical and eco-tourism. The Ministry also maintains the Incredible India campaign.



India's rich history and its cultural and geographical diversity make its international tourism appeal large and diverse. It presents heritage and cultural tourism along with medical, business, educational and sports tourism.

ECONOMY



Mumbai is the commercial and entertainment capital of India. It is also one of the world's top ten centres of commerce in terms of global financial flow, generating 5% of India's GDP.

India's telecommunication industry, the world's fastest-growing, added 227 million subscribers during the period 2010–11, and after the first quarter of 2013, India surpassed Japan to become the third largest smartphone market in the world after China and the U.S.

Its automotive industry, the world's second fastest growing, increased domestic sales by 26% during 2009–10, and exports by 36% during 2008–09. Power capacity is 250 gigawatts, of which 8% is renewable. At the end of 2011, Indian IT Industry employed 2.8 million professionals, generated revenues close to US\$100 billion equalling 7.5% of Indian GDP and contributed 26% of India's merchandise exports.

Here is a short review about India:

Let's see if you remember something
from this presentation...

- Can you name 4 religions which were originated in India ?
- And which arrived in the 1st millennium CE ?
- Which Hindu beliefs and practices still exist today ?
- What is the most popular Indian architecture creature ?

- What is the name of tourism campaign which The Ministry is maintaining ?

- Is tourism in India widespread ?

- What is the commercial and entertainment capital of India ?

- Which countries is largest smartphone markets in the world ?

- Thank you for your attention !

from Caroline with love