

## India facts and Vocabulary

**Caste system** 4 main groups, 1 priests, 2 warriors 3 merchants/farmers 4 laborers, and below all.....the Untouchables

**Dialect...** Regional variety of languages

**Fast ....** to go without food deliberately

**Guru ....** Spiritual leader or guide

**Incense ....** Gum and spice mix burned for the smell

**Lunar Calendar...** A month is between moons, about 29 days

**Mosque ....** A Muslim place of worship

**Pilgrim ....** A person who makes a religious journey

**Ramadan ...** is the ninth month for Muslims, fasting

**Reincarnation....** Hindu belief that people are reborn into different bodies. Rewarded for good and evil. Reborn higher/lower/an animal.

**Republic .....** A country who's leader is elected.

**Shrine .....** A place set aside for worshipping gods

**Temple .....** A place of worship

**Vegetarian ... ..** Person who doesn't eat meat.

▶ 1 billion people . 18 languages are spoken, Hindi is the most prevalent , but only 20% speak it. English is often used to communicate. Hindi honor cows and oxen, they are mostly vegetarians.

▶ In India, they decorate with garlands of flowers

▶ Indians call their country Bharat.

▶ Students learn in Hindi, or their own language and also learn English. India used to be ruled by Great Britain, they gained independence just a little more than fifty years ago

▶ Kids have school only in the morning then they go home for lunch and a midday nap

▶ Himalaya Mountain are the highest in the world. Himalaya mean "house of snow" in their ancient language of Sanskrit.

▶ Mumbai is largest city, 15 million people. It used to be called Bombay. Kolkata is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city of 12 million, it used to be called Calcutta.

India has three seasons

Cool	Nov. to January
Hot	Feb to June (104degrees)
Wet	June to October (monsoon)

- ▶ South India grows teak and rosewood. Rubber trees
- ▶ Banyan tree is India's national tree (fig tree) The branches bend and take root, one tree can become a small forest.
- ▶ Eucalyptus, Bamboo
- ▶ Mangrove trees grow in shallow salt water
- ▶ The Lotus (waterlily) national flower. It is a water plant with delicate pink petals.
- ▶ Lots of National parks and 400 wildlife refuges
- ▶ Last remaining Asiatic lions are in the wildlife sanctuaries in India
- Royal Bengal Tigers. Indian elephants. Indian rhinoceros have only one horn
- Leopards, gazelles, red panda, Indian Gray Wolves, Monkeys!!!!, Hedgehog, Bengal fox, Indian porcupine, mongoose, peregrine falcons, kingfishers, pheasants (national bird) cuckoo peacocks. The beautiful male peacock used to be bred for food in India.
- ▶ Domesticated animals include buffalo, donkey, dogs, cats, goats, pigs, Camels, yaks and elephant. Cows are sacred. Some wander freely.
- ▶ Mahatma Gandhi fought peacefully for rights
- ▶ 8/15/47 was India's first Independence day
- ▶ Pakistan divided off for the Muslim population
- ▶ Indira Gandhi Prime Minister for a time. No relation to Mahatma.
- ▶ Continued hostility between Hindus and Muslims.
- ▶ Yes, they have the nuclear bomb
- ▶ 1 Rupee equals 100 Paise
- ▶ 65% of Indians are farmers. Wheat, lentils, cotton, sugarcane, Jute, tea (export) coffee, tobacco, beans, pepper, cardamom, rubber, lumber (teak), Pineapples Mangos, coconut, watermelon, oranges, bananas, papaya.
- Textile industry is very strong
- ▶ Coal mines, Iron ore, lead, gold diamonds. Some oil fields, imports most of it's oil from the Middle East. Coal is 60% of energy. 5 nuclear plants in India.
- ▶ Roads and lots of railroads and trains!
- ▶ Times of India is the most widespread English newspaper.

- ▶ Entire extended families live in the same house. Daughters go to their husbands home
- ▶ So much disease, malnutrition, and accidents most families have many many children to ensure that some survive. High population growth in India
- ▶ People in India are of different heights, and skin colors
- ▶ Mongoloids live in the Himalayas, they look more Asian.
- ▶ Most Indian cities have slums where the homeless people live.
- ▶ Cricket is the most popular sport in India. Also, soccer, basketball, volleyball, polo, hockey is the national sport.
- ▶ Kite flying is very popular in India
- ▶ The painting and sculpture in India is mostly religious.
- ▶ Handwoven textiles, silk, Kashmir
- ▶ Amazing carpets. Cus, bowls, jewelry boxes, trays, candlesticks.
- ▶ Carved Indian Walnut, pottery, copper and brass. Rosewood and teak furniture.
- ▶ Figurine and statues of Hindu gods elephants, animals made of metal, wood, or chipped from stone.
- ▶ Most people in India rise way before dawn. It is hot in the midday, they are in bed before 10:00 PM.
- ▶ Women wear sari's. Long wide lengths of cloth and petticoats and light blouses called cholis.
- ▶ Salwaars are women's loose trousers worn under a long loose tunic called a Kameez
- ▶ Men wear Kurtas, loose shirts and either..... dhotis, length of cloth wrapped around the waist and one piece pulled up a between the legs. Or Lungis, wide rectangle of cloth wrapped around the waist with the end left dangling.
- ▶ Daughter often bring dowries to their husbands when marrying. Cash and gifts to help the family. Parents arrange marriages, but usually respect the wishes of their children, their approval.
- ▶ Half of India' population cannot read or write. There are not enough textbooks. Too much poverty and children must work.
- ▶ Dead bodies are often burned on a pyre. Mourners wear white and often shave their heads.
- ▶ Rice and dahl. Drink Chai, which is a mix of tea, spices, mlk, sugar, salt and water...boiled.
- ▶ Tons of camels in the desert. Camels are often judged by the length of their eyelashes.

- ▶ Cities sometimes paint their whole city the same color. There is a blue city , a pink city and a sand/beige city in India.
- ▶ Monkeys are everywhere, even in cities. Tigers are precious and protected
- ▶ South India has silk that is considered the most beautiful in the world.
- ▶ Figures decorate temples. People and animals with multiple arms and legs.
- ▶ Three quarters of India's population live in small rural villages even though cities are massively congested. Many illiterate.
- ▶ Democracy
- ▶ Horse racing is popular
- ▶ Public laundry stalls in the city.
- ▶ Lunch delivery is common in those tall tins with compartments from wives to their husbands offices, for three dollar per month.