

## Proud to be an Indian

THE FOUR RELIGIONS BORN IN India, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, are followed by 25 per cent of the world's population.

From the oldest to the fastest to the finest – India is home to these and more. Discover the many facets of India.

- India is the world's largest, oldest, continuous civilisation.
- India never invaded any country in her last 1,000 years of history.
- India's is the world's largest democracy.
- Varanasi, also known as Banaras, was called "the ancient city" when Lord Buddha visited it in 500 BC, is the oldest, continuously inhabited city in the world today.
- India invented the number system. Zero was invented by the mathematician Aryabhatta.
- The world's first university was established in Takshashila in 700 BC. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects. The University of Nalanda built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.
- Sanskrit is the mother of all the European languages. Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computer software (a report in *Forbes* magazine, July 1987).
- Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to humans. Charaka, the father of medicine consolidated Ayurveda 2,500 years ago. Today, Ayurveda is fast regaining its rightful place in our civilisation.
- Although modern images of India often show poverty and lack of development, India was the richest country on earth until the time of British invasion in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Christopher Columbus was attracted by India's wealth.
- The art of Navigation was born in the river Sindhu 6,000 years ago. The very word Navigation is derived from the Sanskrit word Navigatih. The word navy is also derived from Sanskrit *Nou*.
- Bhaskaracharya calculated the time taken by the earth to orbit the sun hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart. Time taken by earth to orbit the sun: (5<sup>th</sup> century) 365.258756484 days.
- The value of  $\pi$  was first calculated by Budhayana, and he explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem. He discovered this in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, long before the European mathematicians.
- Algebra, trigonometry and calculus came from India. Quadratic equations were by Sridharacharya in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The largest numbers the Greeks and the Romans used were 106, whereas ancient Hindus used numbers as big as 1053 (10 to the power of 53) with specific names, as early as 5000 BC during the

Vedic period. Even today, the largest used number is *Tera* 10<sup>12</sup> (10 to the power of 12).

- IEEE has proved what has been a century old suspicion in the world scientific community that the pioneer of wireless communication was Prof. Jagdish Bose and not Marconi.
- The earliest reservoir and dam for irrigation was built in Saurashtra.
- According to Saka King Rudradaman I, of 150 BC, a beautiful lake called Sudarshana was constructed on the hills of Raivataka during Chandragupta Maurya's time.
- Chess (Shataranja or AshtaPada) was invented in India.
- Sushruta is the father of surgery. 2,600 years ago, he and health scientists of his time conducted complicated surgeries like caesareans, cataract, artificial limbs, fractures, urinary stones and even plastic surgery and brain surgery. Usage of anesthesia was well known in ancient India. Over 125 surgical equipment were used. Deep knowledge of anatomy, physiology, aetiology, embryology, digestion, metabolism, genetics and immunity is also found in many texts.
- When many cultures were only nomadic forest dwellers over 5000 years ago, Indians established Harappan culture in Sindhu Valley (Indus Valley Civilisation).
- The place value system, the decimal system was developed in India in 100 BC.
- India currently has the second largest pool of scientists and engineers in the world.
- India is the largest English speaking nation in the world.
- India is the only country, other than US and Japan, to have built a super computer indigenously.
- Did you know – Indians are the wealthiest among all ethnic groups in America, even faring better than the whites and natives.
- There are 3.22 million Indians in the US (1.5 per cent of the population). And:
  - 38% of doctors in US are Indians.
  - 12% scientists in US are Indians.
  - 36% of NASA scientists are Indians.
  - 34% of Microsoft employees are Indians.

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