



Introduction to India

What Do You Already Know About India?

What Do You Want to Learn?

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned

Location



Location

- India is part of the continent of Asia. Most of India forms a peninsula, which means it is surrounded by water on three sides.
- India is located in the southern part of Asia
- India is entirely located in the Northern Hemisphere, the Country extends between $8^{\circ} 4'$ and $37^{\circ} 6'$ latitudes north of the Equator, and $68^{\circ} 7'$ and $97^{\circ} 25'$ longitudes east of it.
- Looking at the [map](#), can you identify four of India's neighbors?



Geography



Alappuzha, Kerala

Geography

- There are 6 geographic regions of India. These include mountains, deep valleys, extensive plains, Plateau and coastal ghats, deserts, and islands. Ghats are mountain ranges along the coast.
- The Himalayan range is the world's highest mountain range, with its tallest peak Mount Everest on the Nepal-China border.
- The Thar Desert forms a significant portion of western India.
- There are major rivers within India (Ganges, Yamuna, Indus, Brahmaputra). These rivers originate from three main watersheds. A watershed is an area of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers or seas.



The Himalayas

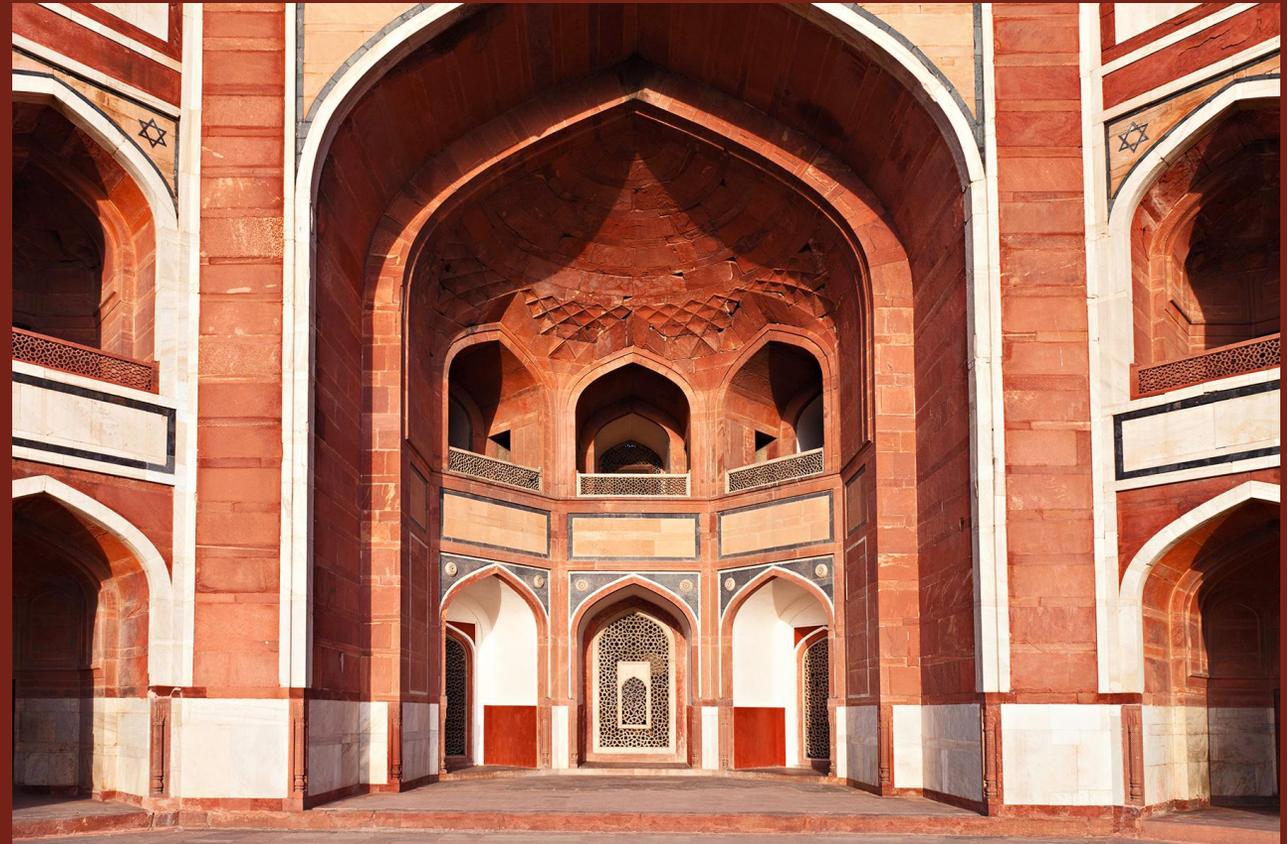
History



Taj Mahal

History

- India's earliest known civilization arose about 5,000 years ago on the Indus River in what is now Pakistan.
- In the 200-year reign of the Gupta Empire, starting in the fourth century A.D., arts, crafts, and sciences flourished.
- The Mongols oversaw a golden age of art, literature, and architecture in India between 1527 and 1707. They built roads, mosques, gardens, and enormous tombs, including the grand Taj Mahal.
- In 1757, Britain gained control over most of the country. Uprisings against British rule began in 1856. In 1920, the famous Mahatma Gandhi began nonviolent protests to push the British out. In 1947, India had independence.



Humayan's Tomb

Language



Language

- The Aryan people were farmers from Central Asia who arrived in India around 1500 B.C. They spoke Sanskrit, one of the world's oldest known languages. The Vedic Scriptures, writings that form the basis of the Hindu religion, were written during the Aryan reign.
- India has 22 official languages
- Hindi is the primary language of Northern India
- Many people in India speak English because of their history of British occupation

Indian States with their Capital & Official Languages



Food



Food

- The cuisine of India is very diverse and is often dictated by the local fruits, vegetables and spices of the region. The cuisine typically includes lentils, beans, rice, grains, fruits, vegetables, and meat from local animals (in some parts of the country).
- The people in many parts of India are vegetarian. Chai is a popular drink all throughout India. It is tea that is made with milk and spices (masala).



Clothing



Traditional Clothing for Women



Saree



Kurti



Anarkali



Salwar Kameez



Lehnga

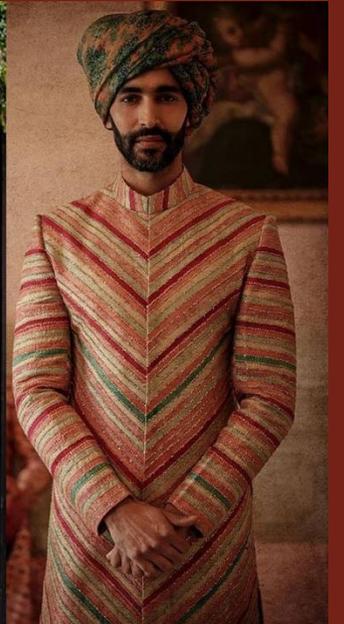
Traditional Clothing for Men



Lunghi



Sherwani



Headdress or Turban

Holidays



Holidays

- Holidays are very important in India. Many holidays are religious in nature. Most holidays involve large gatherings in the community where people celebrate with food and dance.
- Popular holidays include Diwali, Holi, Republic Day and Ramzan.



Sources

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