



India and its clothing traditions

In India, clothes, their colours vary according to regions, and also to the rites and cultural traditions of the different communities.

What can you tell about the Sari?

The origin of the Sari goes back up about 100 years before JC.

It is a traditional clothes which are worn in every region of India. In the north, the Sari is worn when the little girl becomes a young lady while in the south the girls are wearing the Sari when they are getting

married. Their colors define religion, age, region and the status of women in society. It is made of cotton and silk.

What can you tell about the Kurta Churidar?

The Kurta Churidar is worn in in the north of India. It is a set of one pants longer than legs and one long shirt without collar. The colours are various for the pants and for the shirt. The Kurta Churidar is made of fine cotton

By C.J. and R.E.

Animals and India.

A lot of animals live in India. The country has a very important and great diversity of birds.

In religious texts, it is written that man must respect and know his environment well and that he is one creature among

others. For Indians, animals have an important place in their lives. Some are respected and even venerated.

Indeed, several animals are sacred, like the cow, the tiger, the cobra, the monkey, and the elephant.

Moreover, offerings and prayers to different forms of life, plants or animals have a prestigious place in the life of the Indian population.

For Indians, some animals represent the reincarnation of the gods and are thus protected.

The Hindu pantheon is made up of gods associated with animals: the best known is Ganesh with its elephant head, and Shiva is always represented with a cobra around her neck.

There are nursing homes for domestic animals where they

are cared for; there are villages where people that live with particular species: cranes, gazelles.

The Bishnoi and the Jains communities do not kill any living creatures, not even an insect.



Ganesh has become the god who thwarts obstacles and defies adversity, a symbol of luck and fortune.

So you can conclude that all forms life are respected in India. However, some animals are deserted, despised, abandoned like dogs and pigs, wandering the streets.

In India our "European" pets are considered as simple animals. It is rare but sometimes, rich families own a dog. Even if the animal is sacred, the maharadjas continue to hunt tigers on the back of elephants.

During the colonization and economic development of India, many animals were endangered like the tiger.

Today the people's mindset and habits are changing as India is becoming Americanized, the country is losing part of its traditions, and animals are in danger as well as nature. By A. M.

Wild animals in India

In India some animals are protected by laws and some other animals are dangerous.

Indeed, some animals are protected from poaching like the Bengal tiger, the indian clouded leopard, the nilgai, the golden langue, or the indian red panda.

But some other animals are dangerous as their bite is painful like the centipede the mosquito which can transplamt fatal disease, or the white viper, the cobra and other venomous snakes. *By E. S.*

Visiting India?

When you go to India it is imperative to visit the Taj Mahal which is an architectural masterpiece and which has become the emblem of India. Moreover, it is necessary to visit Varanasi, the largest sacred place of Hinduism which is a city of pilgrimage where you feel the very essence of India. You should also visit Goa which is a paradise planted with coconut trees, rice fields, flower gardens and bordered by long sandy beaches.

Then there are many monuments to visit for example Amritsar with its golden temple which is about twenty kilometers from the Pakistani borders. There is also Ellora, which has several magnificent Buddhist caves that Hindus carved into a cliff, which is 30 km from the city of Aurangabad. This site was classified by UNESCO.

Thereafter we have Hampi, a small village with nearly 400 temples scattered in tropical nature. It is an architectural gem in a beautiful natural setting. There is also an archaeological site, with a set of temples built between the 9th century and the 12th century. They are unique because of the

purity and finesse of its representations. Finally, there are still many other magnificent places to visit in India.

In conclusion, if you want to travel in India, pay close attention to the season of your departure. The best time to visit India would be between mid-November and the end of March so as not to be disturbed by the monsoon, which means the rainy season. If you want to go to India for Christmas parties, take warm clothes as temperatures can be cold or even negative. It takes almost 9 hours of flight and do not forget that the Indian currency is the Indian Rupee, so exchange it with your bank before you leave.
By .F. J.



YOUR SURVIVAL GUIDE IN INDIA OR HOW NOT TO END IN TEARS IN YOUR BED !

First, I remind you that the population of India is 1,311 millions people, it is a big country with a surface of 3,287,263 sq.km, that is to say five times bigger than France. And temples and landscapes are so exceptional that you should visit them.

So here are tricks to have a good trip there .

Grow accustomed to Indian culture (customs and habits), throw out your sun glasses and wear traditional clothes ! For instance, if you smile and when someone looks at you, you must stop smiling; because, it is impolite. By the way, when you shake your head from the left to the right, it means « yes » in India.

In order not to fall ill because of food contamination, there are some dishes you may avoid: don't eat any meat, but vegetables and fruits to peel. And most of all do avoid very spicy meals, since your digestive system will not like it.

With my advice, you will be able to adventure in this country without worrying ! As Susan Sontag puts it: *I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list!* By C. A.



What is Goa?

Goa is a rather singular place in India, very different from the rest of the country. It is the smallest state of India, with more than 100 km of coastline from north to south and many different cities.

This former iconic place of the hippies in the 60s welcomes now the new alternative backpackers, who eat vegan and practice yoga, but also a number of tourists.

It is especially a holiday resort that is very appreciated by the Indians who come to see and party on the beach. In this State, the legislation is less strict than in

the rest of the country, in particular on the consumption of alcohol. To explain the strong difference of Goa with regard to the rest of India holds to its history: the State was under Portuguese domination from the sixteenth century to 1961, date of its independence and Goa's people are mainly Catholic. *By B. G. and C. E.*



Gandhi was born on the 2nd of October 1869 in Porbandar and was assassinated on the 15th of January 1948 in Delhi.

He was the man who freed India. The English had settled in

India and he disagreed with this fact. He demonstrated without violence because he hated war. Since the 15th of August 1947 Indians became free and independent.

Gandhi has and still inspires many people. *By C. M. and H. A.*

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

In South Africa, he was called the Father of the Nation. Gandhi's anniversary is commemorated in India as Gandhi Jayanti, it is both a national holiday, and a worldwide event called the International Day of Nonviolence.

He had inspired many personalities like Albert Schweitzer, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama.

He was the leader of the Indian independence movement against British rules.

Gandhi helped India to independence and

inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.

He ate simple vegetarian food, and also undertook long fasts as a means of both self-purification and political protest. Born and raised in a Hindu, Gandhi first used nonviolent civil disobedience as an expatriate lawyer in South Africa, in the resident Indian community's struggle for civil rights.

After, in 1915, he set about organising peasants, farmers, and urban labourers to protest against excessive land-tax and discrimination.

Assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1921, Gandhi launched national campaigns for various social causes and for achieving the independence to India. Gandhi famously led Indians in challenging the British-imposed salt tax in 1930. Later he called for the British to leave India in 1942. Because of his activities, he was imprisoned for many years, upon many occasions, in both South Africa and India.

Gandhi's vision of an independent India based on religious pluralism, however, was challenged in the early 1940 by a new Muslim nationalism which was demanding a separate Muslim homeland carved out of India. Eventually, in August 1947, Britain granted independence, but the British Indian Empire was partitioned into two dominions, a Hindu-majority India and a Muslim-majority Pakistan. *By V. M.*



Some historical background



In 1600, Indian became a British colony.

After the Second World War, European States were weak. India took advantage of this weakness to call for their

independence from United Kingdom.

To become independent Indians boycotted to buy British products. As the British State preferred to keep a good relationship with India so it granted the independence to Indians.

The treaty of independence was signed in August 1947. After the independence, the creation of the new state created many conflicts because India was mainly split in two large communities, that is Indians and Muslims. So a civil war started out in August 1947 and ended in September 1947 when Gandhi broke out a hunger strike for that Indians stop fighting.

Finally, India was split into two states: India for Indian and Pakistan - then Bangladesh - for Muslims.

To conclude, India obtained its independence after a harsh negotiation and a civil war leaving like hundreds of thousands of dead people.

Sources: *Lelivrescolaire.fr, Quizz.biz, jaia-bharati*



INDIA'S FLAG

The Indian flag is the national flag of the Republic. It was adopted on the 22nd of July 1947.

In India, this flag is called « tiranga », which means « composed of three colors ». These colours are:

- **saffron**, which means courage and sacrifice, and which represents Hindus ;
- **white**, which represents means peace and unity ;
- and **green**, which is the symbol of faith and honor. Green represents Islam too.

Finally, at the white center of the flag, there is a navy blue wheel with twenty four rays inside. This wheel represents life in movement (death symbolizes stagnation).

The name of this symbolic wheel is « Chakra d'Ashoka » meaning the fate of existence, dynamism, and the liveliness of the nation. *By L.B.*

Indian agriculture: main crops and imports

Agriculture is an



important economic sector in India and it is

one of the largest agricultural producer of the planet. The sector employs about two thirds of the population.

The agricultural area is 18,200 billions of hectares as it represents around 60% of the national surface, which is huge! The principal productions are rice, cotton, tea and corn.

Despite all these facts, India has to import rice especially from China and American cotton, wheat, corn and soya.



Indian farming : strengths and weaknesses.

Indian Agriculture: an important economical sector:

The importance of agriculture in India is considerable. In 2005, agriculture represented 22% of de GDP of the country. India has a very big farmland surface



which is around 140 millions of hectares, in other words 60% of the country surface.

Crossed by the Granges and benefiting from the monsoon, the indus and the Penjab are the parts of the country where farm production like the sugar and the corn crops are the most cultivated.

These natural advantages explain why it is a leading country in the farming

sector. Yet, although India is a powerful farming power, the country is stricken by hunger and poverty.

First weak point: climatic natural disasters:

If the Indian agriculture (like all the others world farming countries) is exposed to natural climatic disasters, India is very sensitive to this because the biggest part of the farmers depend of the monsoon. The rainfalls start from June to September, and their intensity determine the levels of the production of the coming year.

If the rainfalls are too weak or too strong, the production of the year can decline dramatically.

Other weak factors :

A lack of or not enough mechanization slows down the farming development of the country.

The lack of investment from the government is

another reason of today's situation.

The green revolution:

At the end of the seventies, the prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru called for a dynamisation and the revival of the farming sector. But, that revolution had a bad impact on the profit margins of the farmers and on the environment.
By F. L. and P. L.

Agriculture in india.

India has the second world population, is the third world economic power and the fourth world agricultural power. However, this last sector has some weaknesses...

In India, crops cover an area of 345,947,532 acres out of 444, 789, 684 acres of the national total area : Indeed, it represents 60 % of the country's surface. Crossed by the Ganges and benefiting more from the monsoon, the Indus and Brahmaputra (in particular the Assam Plain, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab) are in the north. It is the most fertile regions where cane sugar and wheat are grown.

These "natural" benefits explain, in part, its leadership in many agricultural products :

Milk's production represents 88,578,587 tons; livestock has a total of 482 millions heads of cattle like cows, buffaloes, sheep, and goats. Millet's plantations produce 90,547,000 tons. It is a leading country in these products, which gives it the first place in the world. Corn, rice, cane sugar crops rank second in the world. Cotton and potatoes are ranked third at the global level.

Yet, a major part of the productions depend on the monsoon. Rainfall occurs from June to September and their intensity determines the year's production levels. The "bad" monsoons, for which precipitation is insufficient or too abundant, can lead to large falls in yields, thus subjecting Indian production to great variability.

Moreover, the absence of mechanization is at the origin of the decreasing development in agriculture. According to the WTO, India would have everything to gain from the total liberalization of international markets. Indeed, the liberalization of international agricultural trade would enable India to develop and to face the major challenges it faces,

like importing products at lower cost, stimulating its exports of agricultural products and thus reduce the trade deficit.

The latter is largely negative, particularly in the agricultural sector. Imports increased 64 % between 1998 and 2001, while exports decreased by 7 %. This is due in part to the fact that the Indian authorities have long neglected the export market to concentrate on supplying the domestic market. *By D.L.*

Indian cooking

Indian food is very colored and perfumed because there are a lot of spices added to it. These spices are produced from all over the country.

The famous Indian bread is the naan. It is like a pancake, that we can eat with or without any cheese. To make naans, we need the following ingredients: flour, one egg, one yogurt, olive oil, baking powder, salt and cheese.

The chicken tandoori is also a food speciality, it is a very popular meals in India. To cook a chicken tandoori, we need these following ingredients: chicken slices and for the sauce: one yogurt, one spoon of

tandoori spice, lemon juice and salt.

There is also the Dhal, which is a typical Indian meal. It is essentially composed of lentils.

To conclude, the Indian food is so delicious, which explains why it is present in many countries in the world. *By R.C.*

Indian gastronomy

The Indian cuisine was influenced during the history of mankind by religions when Muslims brought recipes or different cooking modes into India, more particularly, the tandoori.

If the Indian dishes are principally made up of vegetables, it is because Hindus, Muslims or Persians didn't authorize that.

Different foods were imported, such as potatoes, tomatoes or pimentos.

Indian food is popular around the world thanks to the migrations of Indians, who went to live in Europe or North America.

The Indian cooking is very rich in fat and spicy but meals are also composed of fruits or vegetables.

At the social level people who are not rich often eat rice or lentils with sauce.

By O.V. and M.F.

Indian Sport

Though Indian sportpeople do not have a very good international level, Indians practice a lot of activities.

Here are the sports which are practiced in India, but not invented in this country :

Soccer became popular in 1990, especially in the Northern part of India.

Then, we have tennis, India invests a lot to make it more attractive and to reach the international level.

There is also cricket and India's national team already won the World Cup twice in 1983 and 2011. The Indian team is among the best in the world.

And finally field hockey is a national

sport in India too. Its team won 6 gold Olympic medals.

And then, we also have sport activities invented by Indians. There are the Kabaddi and the Mallakhamb.

The former one is a sport where two teams are in confrontation. It is a mixture of fighting and playing rugby.

And the latter, the Mallakhamb is a sport with one or several gymnasts who make various figures on a pole. *By P. G. Et M.A.*



I hope you have enjoyed reading these articles.

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