

GK & Current Affairs



Indispensable Facts about India

Indispensable Facts About India

- India never invaded any country in her last 100000 years of history. When many cultures were only nomadic forest dwellers over 5000 years ago, Indians established Harappan culture in Sindhu Valley (Indus Valley Civilization).
- The name 'India' is derived from the River Indus, the valleys around which were the home of the early settlers. The Aryan worshippers referred to the River Indus as the Sindhu.
- The Persian invaders converted it into Hindu. The name 'Hindustan' combines Sindhu and Hindu, and thus refers to the land of the Hindus.
- Chess was invented in India. Algebra, trigonometry, and calculus are studies, which originated in India. The 'place value system' and the 'decimal system' were developed in India in 100 B.C.
- The world's first granite temple is the Brihadeswara Temple in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. The shikhara of the temple is made from a single 80-tonne piece of granite. This magnificent temple was built in just five years (between 1004 AD and 1009 AD) during the reign of Rajaraja Chola.
- India is the largest democracy in the world, the 7th largest country in the world, and one of the most ancient civilizations. India has the second-largest population in the world.
- The world's highest cricket ground is in Chail, Himachal Pradesh. Built in 1893 after levelling a hilltop, this cricket pitch is 2444 metres above sea level. India has the largest number of post offices in the world.
- The national symbol of India is the endangered Bengal Tiger.
- 70% of all the world's spices come from India.
- The largest employer in India is the Indian Railways, employing over a million people. As of March 2020, with approximately 1.4 million personnel, the Indian Army has become the world's largest ground force, pulling ahead of China.
- The world's first university was established in Takshila 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 4th century was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.
- Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to mankind. The Father of Medicine, Charaka, consolidated Ayurveda 2500 years ago. Yoga has its origins in India and has existed for over 5,000 years.

- India was one of the richest countries till the time of British rule in the early 17th century. Christopher Columbus, attracted by India's wealth, had come looking for a sea route to India when he discovered America by mistake.
- The art of navigation and navigating was born in the river Sindh over 6000 years ago. The very word 'navigation' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'navgatih'. The word 'navy' is also derived from the Sanskrit word 'nou'.
- Varanasi is one of India's holiest cities. According to Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva founded the city 5000 years ago.
- Bhaskaracharya rightly calculated the time taken by Earth to orbit the Sun hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart. According to his calculation, the time taken by Earth to orbit the Sun was 365.258756484 days.
- The value of 'pi' was first calculated by the Indian mathematician Budhayana, and he explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem. He discovered this in the 6th century, long before the European mathematicians.
- Algebra, trigonometry, and calculus also originated in India. Quadratic equations were used by Sridharacharya in the 11th century. The largest numbers the Greeks and the Romans used were 106, whereas Hindus used numbers as big as 10^{53} (i.e., 10 to the power of 53) with specific names as early as 5000 B.C. during the Vedic period. Even today, the largest used number is terra: 10^{12} (10 to the power of 12).
- Until 1896, India was the only source of diamonds in the world.
- Sushruta is regarded as the Father of Surgery. Over 2600 years ago, Sushruta and his team conducted complicated surgeries like cataract, artificial limbs, caesareans, fractures, urinary stones, and plastic surgery, and brain surgeries.
- Usage of anaesthesia was well-known in ancient Indian medicine. Detailed knowledge of anatomy, embryology, digestion, metabolism, physiology, aetiology, genetics, and immunity is also found in many ancient Indian texts.
- The four religions born in India—Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism—are followed by 25% of the world's population. Jainism and Buddhism were founded in India in 600 B.C. and 500 B.C., respectively. Islam is India's and the world's second-largest religion.
- The oldest European church and synagogue in India are in the city of Cochin. They were built in 1503 and 1568, respectively. Jews and Christians have lived continuously in India since 200 B.C. and 52 A.D., respectively.

- The largest religious building in the world is Angkor Wat, a Hindu temple in Cambodia, built at the end of the 11th century. Sikhism originated in the holy city of Amritsar in Punjab. Famous for housing the Golden Temple, the city was founded in 1577.
- His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, runs his government in exile from Dharamshala in northern India.
- Martial arts were first created in India, and later spread to Asia by Buddhist missionaries.

LONGEST

- Bridge/River bridge: Dholai Sadiya Bridge on Lohit River, Assam (also known as Bhupen Hazarika Setu, 9.15 km)
- Railway bridge: Vembanad Rail Bridge, Kerala
- Train route: Vivek Express, Dibrugarh to Kanyakumari (4286 km)
- Highway tunnel: Chenani-Nashri Tunnel (also known as Patnitop Tunnel, 11.2 km) on NH44, Jammu and Kashmir
- Railway platform: Gorakhpur, UP (1355.4 m)
- Railway tunnel: Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel (11.215 km), Jammu and Kashmir
- Coastline (State): Gujarat (1600 km)
- Coastline (South Indian State): Andhra Pradesh (974 km)
- International border (State): West Bengal (2509 km). [India shares a border of 4096 km with Bangladesh].

LARGEST

- State with the maximum number of international borders: Arunachal Pradesh (3 countries) > West Bengal (3 countries) > Sikkim (3 countries)
- State with the maximum number of the neighbouring states: Uttar Pradesh (8 states)
- State (Area): Rajasthan (3.42 lakh km²)
- State (Population): Uttar Pradesh (204 million)
- State (Population density): Bihar (1,106 per sq km)
- State (Literacy rate): Kerala (94%)
- State (Sex ratio): Kerala (1084)

SMALLEST

- State (Area): Goa (3702 km²)
- State (Population): Sikkim (6.1 lakh)

- State (Population density): Arunachal Pradesh (17 people)
- State (Literacy rate): Bihar (63.2%)
- State (Sex ratio): Haryana (879)
- State (Population growth rate): Sikkim (12.89%)

Oldest church: St. Thomas Church at Player, Trichur (Kerala)

Place with the heaviest rainfall: Mawsynram (Meghalaya)

TALLEST

(HIGHEST)

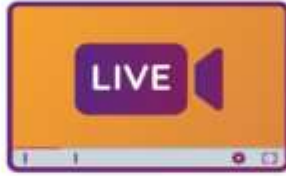
- Dam: Tehri dam on Bhagirathi River, Uttarakhand (Height: 260 m)
- Gateway: Buland Darwaza, Fatehpur Sikri, UP
- Statue: Statue of Unity (statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel), Kevadia, Gujarat
- Airport: Leh airport, Jammu and Kashmir
- Gallantry award: Param Vir Chakra
- Civilian award: Bharat Ratna
- Straight gravity dam: Bhakra Dam on Satluj River, Himachal Pradesh.

LARGEST

- Lake: Chilka Lake, Odisha (Chilika lake is the largest non-freshwater lake in India and the world's second-largest brackish lagoon.) Brackish means a lake with partially saline water.
- Saltwater Lake: Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan
- Freshwater lake: Wular lake, Jammu and Kashmir (260 km²)
- Artificial freshwater lake: Shivaji Sagar Lake on Koyna Dam, Maharashtra (891 km²)

LONGEST

- Longest river that flows entirely in India: Godavari River (1465 km)
- Longest river (India): The Ganga (2640 km)
- Longest tributary river of India: Yamuna (1376 km; tributary of Ganga)
- The longest river that forms an estuary: Narmada (falls in the Arabian Sea, 1300 km)



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