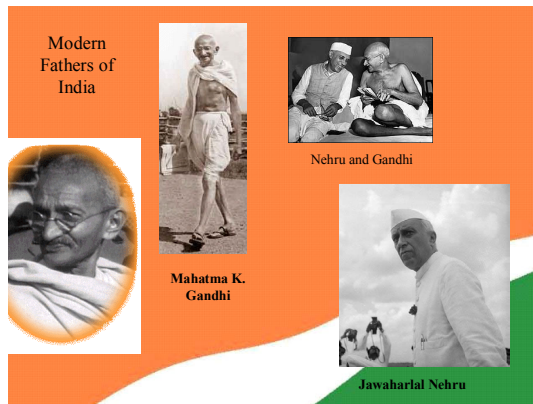


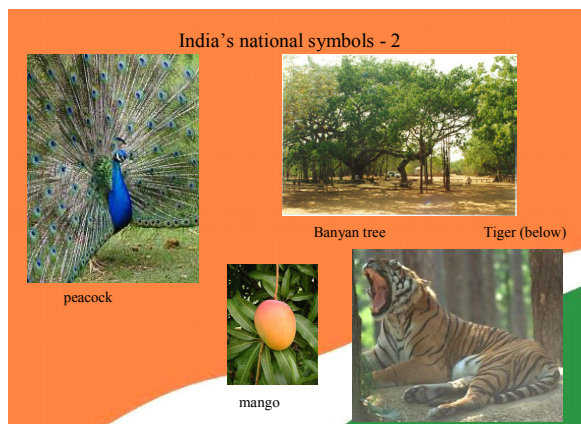
## History:



“The Indus Valley civilization, one of the oldest in the world, dates back at least 5,000 years. Aryan tribes from the northwest invaded about 1500 B.C.; their merger with the earlier Dravidian inhabitants created the classical Indian culture. Arab incursions starting in the 8th century and Turkish in the 12th were followed by those of European traders, beginning in the late 15th century. By the 19th century, Britain had assumed political

control of virtually all Indian lands. Indian armed forces in the British army played a vital role in both World Wars. Nonviolent resistance to British colonialism led by Mohandas GANDHI and Jawaharlal NEHRU brought independence in 1947. The subcontinent was divided into the secular state of India and the smaller Muslim state of Pakistan. A third war between the two countries in 1971 resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh.”<sup>1</sup>

India celebrates its independence day on August 15. This is the day back in 1947, India gained Independence from the British. However, India also celebrates Republic Day on January 26. This national holiday began in 1948, and signifies the completion and signing of the Indian constitution. India has many national symbols. The Indian flag is called the ‘tricolor’, with saffron, white and green horizontal stripes. The white stripe, being in the middle has the dharma wheel in the middle,



signifying the circle of life, death and deeds. The dharma chakra can also be seen in the Indian national symbol. “The **National Symbol of India** comes from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Emperor Ashoka. Ashoka ruled the land from 272 BCE to 232 BCE. The original sculpture shows four lions on a pillar with an elephant, horse, bull, and lion separated by a lotus on the base. A Dharma Chakra (wheel of law) is also carved into the stone. The emblem was adopted on

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/in.html>

January 26, 1950 by the Indian Government. The official symbol now shows three of the four lions with the Dharma Chakra in the center of the base and a bull and horse on either side. The base is also engraved with the phrase "Satyameva Jayate" in the Devanagari script of India. This simple phrase represents a powerful idea for the Indian people: "Truth alone triumphs".<sup>2</sup> The national flower is the lotus. The lotus is a great symbol, as the lotus resides in murky waters. It is a symbol that something wonderful and beautiful can arise from the most adverse of situations. In fact, many Hindu gods and goddess are pictured sitting on a lotus. Next, is the Indian national animal, the tiger, national bird, the peacock, national fruit, mango, national tree, and the Banyan tree.



## The Indian National Anthem –

Hindi:

Jaana Gaana Maana Adhinayaka  
Jayehe Bharata bhagya vidhata;  
Punjaba Sindhu Gujarata Maratha,  
Dravida Utkala Banga, Vindhya,  
Himachala, Jamuna, Ganga,  
Ucchhala Jaladhitaranga; Taba Shubha  
Naame Jaage Taba Shubha Ashish  
Maage Gaye taba jaya gaatha. Jaana  
Gaana Maana Adhinayaka Jayahe  
Bharata bhagya vidhata; Jaya he Jaya  
he Jaya Jaya Jaya Jaya he.

Jaana Gaana Maana



1 rupee coin



Taj Mahal

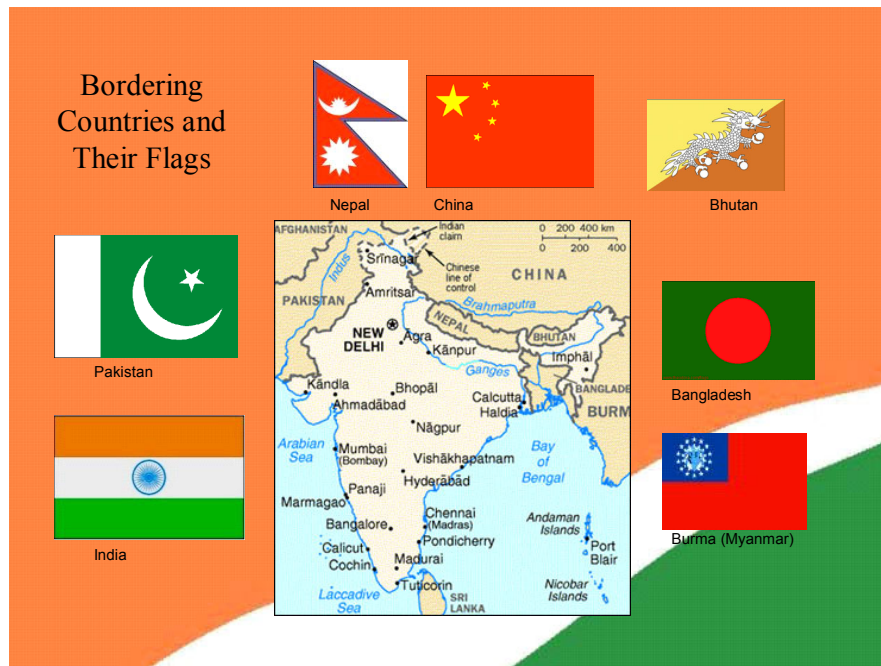


Fireworks- Gateway of India,  
Bombay, New Year 2000

English:

Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people,  
Dispenser of India's destiny.  
Thy name rouses the hearts of the Punjab,  
Sind, Gujarat, and Maratha, Of the Dravid,  
and Orissa and Bengal.  
It echoes in the hills of Vindhya and,  
Himalayas, mingles in the music of the  
Jamuna and the Ganges and is chanted by  
the waves of the Indian sea.  
The pray for the blessings, and sing by the  
praise, The saving of all people waits in thy  
hand.  
Thou dispenser of India's destiny, Victory,  
victory, victory to thee.

<sup>2</sup> <http://greetingindia.tripod.com/symbols.html>



Lastly, any Indian will recognize immediately the map of India, and it's silhouette. India is called "Bharat" in Hindi and also "mother India" or "mother land" in English. India is a peninsula, bordered by oceans and land. India is bordered by water to the West, East and South, by Bay of Bengal on the East, Indian Ocean to the South East and Arabian Sea to the West. India is bordered on the North West by Pakistan, on the North by China and Nepal, and on the North East by Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Burma (Myanmar). India is comprised of 28 States and seven centrally administered Union Territories, most having a different language and script.

**Namaste India**

**Welcoming you to India in 26 plus languages!**

Sim.	DEV	GUJ	PUN	BEN/ASS	ORI	TEL	KAN	TAM	MAL	SIN	URD	SIND
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Interestingly, the reason this occurred is when British left India, they thought this would be the best way to divide India into states. In fact, India has noted fifteen national languages in it's constitution, in addition to English. Often times, when Indians from different parts of India meet the first time, two questions will be 'What is

your native place?" and "What is your mother tongue?" These questions refer to which



village is your family originally from and what is your family's native language. It is often the case Indians move freely around India and learn many languages. It is not uncommon for most Indians to know their native language, English and at least one or two other Indian languages. Some may also know how to write and read in all different scripts as well.



**What is an election symbol?**

### ...Politics In India...



King of Bhutan and Chhoetse Penlop with India's President of India, Mr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh (January 2005)



AIADMK, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Jayalalitha



RJP, Chief Minister of Bihar, Smt. Rabri Devi

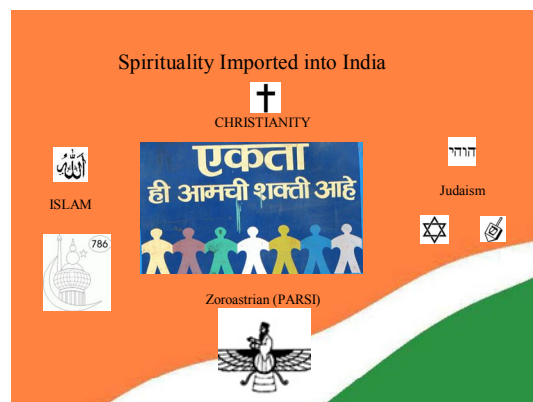
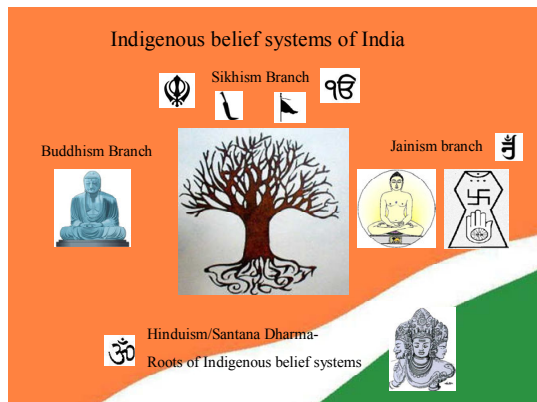
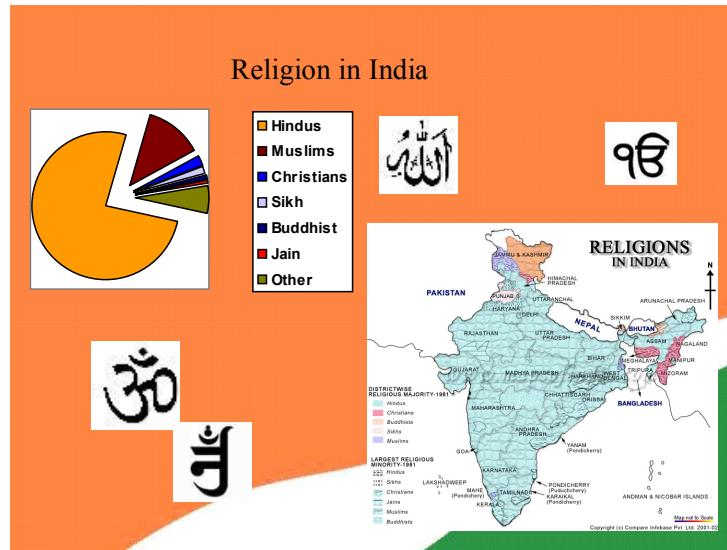


TDP, Chandra Babu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

India prides itself on being the largest democracy in the world, with over 1 billion population. India actually classifies itself as a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic. India's president is appointed by the Parliament, while the Prime Minister is elected by the people. India's current president is Adbul Kalam, a Muslim by birth, and the current Prime Minister is Manmohan Singh, a Sikh. Currently, neither national political leader is of the dominant Hindu faith. Further, India has as many political parties as states, cities and villages. Though there are two main, national parties, BJP, which is symbolized by the lotus and Congress, symbolized by the hand, state and local, even village level political groups are coming mainstream. A few of these groups I am familiar with from the state I lived in India, Tamil Nadu, are the DMK, symbolized by the setting sun through the mountains, and the AIADMK, symbolized by the palm leaves. Also, interestingly, the neighboring state of Kerala, the state boasting the highest literacy rates, and the highest incident of labor strikes, is ruled by the CPI-Marxist party, a communist party, symbolized by the hammer and sickle. As an interesting side note, due to the high illiteracy rate, especially in the country side, symbols help the people recognize and vote for a particular party. The use of symbols in the voting booth allows democracy to reach all, even those who can not read names.

As it is hard to track the number of political parties, it is equally hard to calculate the exact number of citizens of India. When I lived in India in the year 2000 the supposed 1 billionth baby was born. India does not have a social security system, nor is it able to easily track the births in Remote Mountain or tribal areas. Many of the population totals are estimates based on field research. The last census,

conducted in 2001, calculated a population of 1028 million. Overall, “828 million (80.5 percent) have returned their religion as Hindus followed by 138 million (13.4 percent) as Muslims and 24 millions (2.3 percent) Christians. 19 million (1.9 percent) persons follow Sikh religion; 8 million (0.8 percent) are Buddhists and 4.2 million (0.4 percent) are Jains as per the 2001 Census. In addition to these, 6.6 million belong to ‘Other Religions and Persuasions’ including tribal religions which are not part of the six main religions stated above. About seven lakh (or 0.7 million) persons have not stated their religion.”<sup>3</sup>



(Religion completed by a partner. Text does not exist.)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.censusindia.net/religiondata/Brief\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.censusindia.net/religiondata/Brief_analysis.pdf)

Resources:

<http://www.ling.su.se/staff/ljuba/maps/india-langs.jpg>  
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Academy/9594/>  
<http://greetingindia.tripod.com/symbols.html>  
<http://www.hampshireflag.co.uk/world-flags/allflags/in%7D.html#bjp>  
<http://www.navis.gr/recreati/millecel/2000bom.htm>  
<http://www.spiegel.de/img/0,1020,419323,00.jpg>  
<http://www.harappa.com/wall/gandhi.html>  
[http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Shared\\_ASP\\_Files/UploadedFiles/%7B35C8F816-0190-40E2-BA43-2C27C35B81C7%7D\\_nehru-gandhi.jpg](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Shared_ASP_Files/UploadedFiles/%7B35C8F816-0190-40E2-BA43-2C27C35B81C7%7D_nehru-gandhi.jpg)  
[http://www.pinanywhere.com/store/moreinfo.asp?country\\_id=186&card\\_id=38&dept\\_id=26&](http://www.pinanywhere.com/store/moreinfo.asp?country_id=186&card_id=38&dept_id=26&)  
[http://www.raonline.ch/images/bt/rfam/bt\\_kingindia0501.jpg](http://www.raonline.ch/images/bt/rfam/bt_kingindia0501.jpg)  
<http://www.expressindia.com/election/imgs/jaya2.jpg>  
<http://www.rediff.com/election/1999/sep/30pic2.jpg>  
<http://bihar.nic.in/Governance/CM.htm>  
<http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/india/religion.jpg>  
[http://www.alleycatscratch.com/lotr/scrapbook/LeahPOP/TreeDrawMir\\_LePoP\\_med.jpg](http://www.alleycatscratch.com/lotr/scrapbook/LeahPOP/TreeDrawMir_LePoP_med.jpg)  
<http://www.abhishekthakkar.com/flavours/index.php?showimage=21>  
<http://imshopping.rediff.com/shopping/video/pix/video1954.jpg>  
<http://www.india-history.com/images/maps/harappa.jpg>  
<http://www.tourindia.com/insignia/anthem.htm>  
<http://www.kuttyjapan.com/india/india-ancient.asp>