

The Indian Culture

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Red, pink, yellow, green, purple, orange, blue, white. Colors float and wave around me. They are in front of me, beside me, behind me, everywhere! There are so many colors that it feels like I am in the sun where all the colors are combined. But to tell you the truth, I am in India. India is a place full of colors, and everywhere you look, everything is so lively and beautiful. There are so many varieties of everything here. India is even called “The Land of Diversity” because of the varieties of food, entertainment, traditions, festivals, clothing, religions, languages, and so much more. Every direction you look, from food to religion, you will see so many unique things.

It helps you, it gives you energy, it is the thing that keeps you moving and working - it's food. There are so many famous foods in India that it is called the land of spices. People from Northern India desire foods like Mughlai food. Famous foods in Southern India are dosa, idli, and more rice-based dishes. Some foods that people across the country like are chole bhature, all kinds of bread like roti and naan, and of course the all time favorite biryani! Some Indian desserts that are famous are kheer, rasgulla, gulab jamun, and more different varieties. Indians like to play a musical game called antakshari. They also like to watch movies, and the movies are mostly musical, including many types of songs and dances. The movie industry, Bollywood, is almost as big as Hollywood now. You probably know that India has 29 states. But did you know that each state has its own food, clothes, music, dance, art, and more? It is breathtaking that each state in India has its own style and culture.

Everyone follows a unique tradition. Everyone has different kinds of individual traditions that have been passed down to them. Many different traditions and festivals exist in India. But there is one thing that is common throughout India. It is the fact that everyone still celebrates ancient traditions. Some practices that all Indians follow is touching the feet of elders as a sign of respect and to receive their blessings. People do this before festivals. Some other traditions are fasting during religious occasions, saying Vedic mantras during religious events called pujas, doing yoga and meditation because it is an ancient practice that our ancestors did. It also calms the body and mind. Some famous festivals that people celebrate are National festivals like Independence Day, Republic Day, and Gandhi Jayanthi. Additionally, some religious festivals are Diwali, Holi, Christmas, Ramadan, and New Year. Although people in India do wear western clothes too, they wear colorful traditional clothes to festivals. Some traditional clothes are dhoti, kurta, salwar, kameez, sari, sherwani, and turban. Men wear dhotis which are draped around your waist, and a kurta is a famous ethnic wear. Women wear sarees

that are about nine yards long and drape around them. When a child is born, they use langotas and loin cloths for clothing. Despite some of these traditions being old, it is very impressive that people still take them seriously and carry these out.

There are so many different gods in India. Numerous people show their devotion to many different gods. It could be one god or multiple gods. Of course, people follow various religions, but the four major faiths that started in India first are Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism. There are other religions too, but they are considered as a minority compared to these four religions. Some of the minor beliefs are Islam, Christianity, Zoroastrians, and Abrahamic. Now for some interesting facts about some religions listed here. Let's first look into Hinduism. Hinduism is one of the oldest religions created in India and was founded in the ancient Indus Valley. There was no founder for this religion, but instead, there was a fusion of beliefs. Some beliefs are that there is a continuous circle of life and there is karma. Sikhism was found in the Punjab area by a guru named Guru Nanak. Sikhs believed that human beings spend time in a cycle of birth, life, and rebirth. It is close to Hinduism. Jainism was founded at the same time Buddhism was found. Mahavira established it. Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama. Finally, let's talk about a minor religion, Christianity. Many people in India follow the Christian faith. St. Thomas is one of the people who spread Christianity in India. Just like there are many religions in India, there are also many languages, including Sanskrit, an ancient language. Hindi is a language that is spoken throughout India with little variations like Bengali, Marathi, Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi, etc. Each area has its own language, and the people like to speak in their mother tongue. The well-known languages in India besides English, Hindi, and Hindi variations are Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kanada, and many more. Even though there are so many diverse people in India, we come together as one.

As you've seen, everything in India is distinct. Everything has its own special side and is very high-spirited and vivacious. There is so much color everywhere, and it makes the whole place look appealing. From the different types of food that people from distinct areas in India eat to the individual religions people follow, everything varies. All of this truly makes India a land of diversity. India is a place of diversity and uniqueness, and there is no doubt about that.