



## India in Transition

### Global Gatherings

Thayumanasamy &  
Gnanabhanu Somasundaram  
Tallahassee, FL 32317

## Few Words at the Beginning

வ ண க் க ம்

Va na k ka m

Greetings or Hello!

- Thanks for the opportunity
- We are not experts
- Our personal observations
- From Southeastern India
- We speak Tamil, a Dravidian language
- Part of FSU International Center: Global Gatherings
- *Purple links* give credit to original sources

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 2

## About the Speakers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thayumanasamy Somasundaram [<b>Soma</b>]</li> <li>• FSU Assoc Research</li> <li>• In the US since 1989</li> <li>• Ph.D in Chemistry</li> <li>• Raised in India till 30</li> <li>• Born in Rural India</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gnanabhanu Somasundaram [<b>Gina</b>]</li> <li>• Leon County Library</li> <li>• In the US since 1992</li> <li>• Engineer</li> <li>• Raised in India till 25</li> <li>• Born in Urban India</li> </ul>
---	--




April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 3

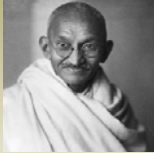

## Which India?: Rural or Urban

- Rural/Urban: 70/30%
- (US 30/70%)
- Father of India
  - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (*Gandhiji*)

“India does not live in her cities, ... she lives in her villages” – M.K. Gandhi, 1931.

- My Grandfather
  - Sardar A. Vedaratnam Pillai

“India can attain self-sufficiency only when rural women have education & economic status”

[Indiapost.gov.in](http://indiapost.gov.in)

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 4

## Which India?: National Geographic or Business Week




1997 National Geographic / Steve McCurry 2003 Business Week / Namias Bhojani

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 5

## National Symbols of India







सत्यमेव जयते

Truth Alone Triumphs



[www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 6

## Geographic Features of India

- India (*Bharat*)
- South Asia
- One of the Oldest Civilizations
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Populace Country
  - ~1/3 US size
  - ~3 time more people
- Himalayas in North
- Indian Ocean (S), Bay of Bengal (E) & Arabic Sea (W)
- Sri Lanka (S), Myanmar & Bangladesh (E), Nepal, Bhutan, & China (N), & Pakistan & Afghanistan (W)



[www.worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com)

April 9, 2007

© 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram

7

## Environment of India

- North: Himalayas
- South, East, & West: Seas
- Latitude (E-W): 10 to 32°N
- Longitude (N-S): 70 to 90°E
  - Tallahassee (30°N; 84°W)
- Summer: March to June (Hot Humid Summer)
- Monsoon: June to October (Rainy Season)
- Winter: October to March (Mild Winter)



[www.worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com)

April 9, 2007

© 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram

8

## Government

- Independent British Colony: August 15, 1947
- Democratic Republic: January 26, 1950
- President
  - Head of the State
- Prime Minister
  - Head of Government
  - Parliament
  - Council of Ministers
- Supreme Court
  - Independent Judiciary

April 9, 2007

© 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram

9

## Government of India (Central)

- President
  - Dr. A.P.J. Kalam, Scientist
- Prime Minister
  - Dr. Man Mohan Singh, Economist
- Cabinet of Ministers
- Members of Parliament (MP)
- Lokh Sabha (People's House)
  - MP elected by people
- Rajhya Sabha (State's House)
  - Appointed by States



April 9, 2007

© 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram

10

## Government of India (State)

- States are Semi-Independent
- Head of State
  - Governor
- Head of Government
  - Chief Minister
- Cabinet of Ministers
  - Members of Legislative Assembly (Elected)
  - Members of Legislative Council (Appointed)
- Regional Parties (DMK, TD)
- National Parties (Congress, Janata Dal)



[www.tn.gov.in](http://www.tn.gov.in)

April 9, 2007

© 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram

11

## Economy of India

- **Traditional**
  - Agrarian
  - Textile
  - Raw Materials
  - Spices
  - Jewelry
- **Modern**
  - Knowledge-Based
  - Information Technology
  - Communication & Media
  - Customer Service
  - Manufacturing



Back of 5 India Rupees



Back of 1000 India Rupees

April 9, 2007

© 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram

12

## Economy of India

- Traditional Companies**
  - Government Enterprises
  - or
  - Public Sector Firms
  - Natural Resources
  - Garments & Spices
- Modern Companies**
  - Infosys IT
  - Bharati Airtel
  - ICICI Banking
  - Oil & Natural Gas
  - Reliance Diversified
- Traditionally Rich**
  - Family Fortune
    - Tata, Birla, Dalmia, Bajaj & Godrej
  - Industrialists
  - Retail Merchants
  - Land Owners
- Modern Millionaires**
  - Premji (Software)
  - Mittal (Telecom)
  - Shanhgvi (Pharma)
  - Maran (Media)

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thyumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 13

## Education in India

- Traditional**
  - School (Elementary | Middle | High)
    - State or Local
    - Local Language
  - College
    - BA | MA | Professional
    - Mostly in English
    - Many Public Colleges
  - Emphasis on Diploma
- Current**
  - School
    - State or Local, More Private
    - English & Local Language
  - College
    - Professional
    - Private Colleges
  - Emphasis on Jobs/Skills

Population  
 ■ 1.03 Billion | 5.3 person/household (2001)


Literacy Rate  
 ■ Male: 75% | Female : 54% (2001)

[www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)


April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thyumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 14

## Science in India


Inadequate Labs




Science Power in the Making



Modern Gadgets





2006 C&E News / Amanda Yarnell

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thyumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 15

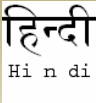
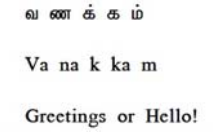
## Religion in India

- Secular Country | No State Religion
- Major Religions
  - Hinduism: 75% (Many Ministers)
  - Islam: 12% (President of India)
  - Christianity: 6% (Chief Minister)
  - Sikh (Prime Minister), Jain, Buddhist, & Jews: 7%
- Hinduism is non proselytizing
- Ironically Religion is an Uniting Feature
- Most People Tolerant
- Very Private
- Becoming Less Important

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thyumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 16

## Languages in India

- Twenty-two (22)
- Official Languages:
  - Hindi
  - Language of the State
  - English
- Languages Demarcate States
- North India
  - Sanskrit (like Latin)
  - Indo-Iranian-Germanic Branch
  - Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, & Marathi
- South India
  - Dravidian Branch
  - Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, and Kannada

Greetings or Hello!

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thyumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 17

## Health Care in India

- Traditional**
  - Public Health Services
    - Covers 20% Population
    - Government Doctors & Facilities
    - No Fees! But Wait!!!
    - Pervasive Corruption
    - Lack of Amenities
- Current**
  - Private
    - Private Doctors & Facilities
    - Pay for Service
    - Get Good Service
    - Attracting Foreigners
    - But Poor Go only when sick

• Insurance is Rare < 8% or Avoid Services

• Life Expectancy: 63 (M) | 65 (F) (74 & 80 US)

• Infant Mortality: 60/1000 live births (6/1000 US)

[www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thyumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 18

## Family in India

- Traditional**
  - Family Comes First
  - Joint Families
  - Individuals Less Important
  - Patriarchal System
  - Divorce Rare
    - Social Pressure
    - Economically Dependent
    - Children (4-5)
- Current**
  - Familial Connections Less
  - Nuclear Families
  - Prominent Individuality
  - No Change Here!
  - Increase in Divorces
    - Social Reality
    - Economically Independent
    - Children (1-2)

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 19


## Women in India

- Traditional**
  - Took Care of Family
  - Kept Family Together
  - Education Not Emphasized
  - Rarely Worked Outside
  - No Financial Standing
  - Divorce Rare
- Current**
  - Family Still Important
  - Nuclear Families
  - Education IS Emphasized
  - Many Work Outside
  - Financially Less Dependent
  - Divorces Tolerated

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 20

## Travel in India

- Travel**
  - Dozen International Airports
  - Distant Travel by Train
  - Local Travel by Bus
  - Cars Prevalent
  - But Congested Roads
- Food**
  - Vegetarian Food
  - Bottled Water
- People**
  - Friendly
  - Violent Crime Rare
  - But Petty Crime Common




Indian Railways


April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 21

## Tourism in India


- North India
- South India
- Coastal India



17th Century




11th Century




8th Century

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 22


## Monuments: All Religions




Sanchi, Buddhist, 3 BCE



Church Our Lady of Health, 18<sup>th</sup> Cent.




Kangaikonda Cholapuram Hindu Temple, 11<sup>th</sup> Cent




Agra Fort, 16<sup>th</sup> Cent.

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 23


## Monuments: Temples & Sculptures




Lord Bahubali, 11<sup>th</sup> Cent, Jainism



Halebid, 12<sup>th</sup> C., Sculptures



Modern Zoroastrian Temple



Hawa Mahal, 18<sup>th</sup> C., Palace

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 24

## Customs and Traditions

- Food:
  - North India
    - Wheat
    - Tea
  - South India
    - Rice
    - Coffee
- Dress
  - North India
    - Kurtha
    - Pajama
  - South India
    - Vaeshti
    - Sari
- Traditions
  - North India
    - Influenced by many cultures
    - Less traditional
    - Wide range in rural and urban
  - South India
    - Very little outside influence
    - More traditional
    - More uniform
- Caste
  - Based on Family Tradition
  - Maintained in Family level
  - Not in work place

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 25

## Customs and Traditions: Dress

- Cotton, Silk, & Polyester
- Traditional & Casual
- Colorful & Ornamental
- South India
  - Doti, Sari
  - Silk Shirts & Sari
  - 22 Ct Gold Jewelry
  - Shirts & Pants
- North India
  - Kurtha, Pajamas
  - Sari
  - Salwar Kameez
  - Silk, Cotton, & Wool
  - Gold & Silver Jewelry



Chennai Silks



April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 26

## Customs and Traditions: Jewelry



Rasi Silks



Tota Ram



April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 27

## Customs and Traditions: Food

- Use of Spices, Lentil, & Herbs
- Practicing Vegetarians
- South India
  - Idli, Dosai, Vadai
  - Sambar, Chutney, Vegetables
  - Rice, Pickle, & Yogurt
  - Coffee (Milk + Sugar)
- North India
  - Roti, Chapati
  - Lentils, Cheese
  - Sweets, Yogurt
  - Tea (Milk + Sugar)




April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 28

## Entertainment: Movies

- Largest producer of movies
- About 1000 movies/year
- Bombay (Bollywood)
- Chennai
- Kolkata
- Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, and others
- Songs and dances are important
- Story line range from banal to serious




April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 29

## Entertainment: Television & Radio




- Slowly Replacing Movies
- Doordarshan (State owned)
  - National and Regional
- Other Television Stations
  - Private
  - Corporations
- Hindi, Tamil, English language programs
- News, Sports, Drama, Mini Series
- Regional (Sun TV)
- Radio is losing popularity
  - Urban Stations Popular
- All India Radio




April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 30

## Entertainment: Dance



- **Traditional (Natraj: Shiva)**
  - Bharata Natyam
  - Katha Kali
- **Popular Dance**
  - Movie Dance
  - Western Rock & Roll
- Spectators

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 31

## Entertainment: Music

- **Traditional Music**
  - Hindustani (N India)
    - Vocal
    - Instrumental
  - Carnatic (S India)
    - Vocal
    - Instrumental
- **Popular Music**
  - Movies
    - Very Popular
    - Professionals
  - Western Pop Music
    - Urban Areas
    - Clubs

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 32

## Conclusions

- India is in Transition
- Gaining Middle Class
- Widening Gap Between Rich and Poor
- Social System is Not Ready
- No Economic Safety Net
- Young Entrepreneurs
  - Technological Empowerment
  - Embrace Rural Folks
  - Not Flaunt Wealth But Spread It
- Government
  - Micro Lending
  - Better Education
  - Job Skills

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 33

## Which India?: 1007CE or 2007CE



Tanjore Temple 1007CE



2005 Business Week / Namas Bhojani

April 9, 2007 © 2007 Thayumanasamy & Gnanabhanu Somasundaram 34