

India: Heritage, Culture, & Customs

India in Transition

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Few Words @ the Beginning

- We are thankful for the opportunity
- Glad that many of you came
- We are neither professional speakers nor experts
- Talk is based on our personal observations
- Errors and mistakes are our own
- Thanks to FSU International Center
- Part of Global Ambassador Program

Va na k ka m

வ ண க் க ம்

- We are from Southeastern India
- We speak a language called Tamil
- *Purple links* give credit to original sources

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About the Speakers

- Thayumanasamy Somasundaram [Soma]
- FSU Assoc Research
- In the US since 1989
- Born in Rural India
- Raised in India till 30
- Ph.D in Chemistry

- Gnanabhanu Somasundaram [Gina]
- Leon County Library
- In the US since 1992
- Born in Urban India
- Raised in India till 25
- Engineer

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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 villeges" – M.K. Gandhi, 1931.

- My Grandfather
 - Sardar A. Vedaratnam Pillai

Firm believer in educating women. India can attain self-sufficiency only when rural women have education and economic status in free India.

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Which India: Poor or Rich?

Wikipedia

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India: Historic Time Line

BCE: Before the Common Era
CE: Common Era

3000 BCE	2000 BCE	1000 BCE	0 CE	250 CE	500 CE	750 CE	1000 CE	1250 CE	1500 CE	1750 CE	2000 CE
Indus Valley				Kushan			Chalukya				
	Harappan Civilization						Md Gazini				
							Chalukya (South)				

Wikipedia

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National Symbols of India








सत्यमेव जयते
 Truth Alone Triumphs

www.india.gov.in

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Geographic Features of India

- India (*Bharat*)
- South Asia
- One of the Oldest Civilizations
- 2nd 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

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Environment of India

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

wikipedia.org

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Government

- Gained Independence from British on August 15, 1947
- Became a Democratic Republic on January 26, 1950
 - Constitution of India adopted
 - 395 Articles and 7 Schedules
 - 93 Amendments
- President Head of the State
- Parliament
- Prime Minister
- Council of Ministers
- Members of the Parliament
- Based on British System

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Government of India (Central)

- Parliament
- Head of Nation: President
 - Dr. A.P.J. Kalam
- Head of Government: Prime Minister
 - Dr. Man Mohan Singh
- Cabinet of Ministers
- Two Chambers
- Lokh Sabha (People's House)
 - MP elected by people
- Rajhya Sabha (State's House)
 - Appointed by States
- Supreme Court

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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

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Economy of India

- Traditional
 - Legacy-System
 - Agrarian
 - Textile
 - Raw Materials
 - Spices
 - Jewelry
- Modern
 - Knowledge-Based
 - Information Technology
 - Out-Sourcing
 - Customer Service (English helps!)
 - Manufacturing (Low cost qualified people)



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Education in India


- State is Responsible
- Age 5-16 Free
 - Elementary 1-5 grades
 - Middle 6-8 grades
 - High 9-12
- State & Private
- Local Language & English
- College
 - Taught in English (British Legacy)
 - Bachelors
 - Masters
 - Professional
 - Doctoral
 - Mostly Private
- Literacy Rate (*A person who can read and write in any language*)
 - Male: 75% (2001)
 - Female: 54% (2001)
- Sex Ratio
 - 933 F / 1000 M (2001)
- Population
 - 1.03 Billion (2001)
 - 5.3 person/household

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Religion in India

- India is a Secular Country
- No State Sponsored Religion
- Major Religions
 - Hindu: 75%
 - Muslim: 12%
 - Christian: 6%
 - Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, & Jews: 7%
- Ironically religion is a uniting feature
- Hinduism is non proselytizing
- No preaching
- Most people are tolerant
- Very private
- Becoming less important



Encarta

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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

Va na k ka m
வ ண க் க ம்

Tamil

हिन्दी
Hi n di

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Health Care in India

- Insurance is Rare < 8%
- Life Expectancy: 63 (M) | 65 (F) (74 & 80 US)
- Infant Mortality: 60/1000 live births (6/1000 US)
- Public Health Services
 - Covers 20% Population
 - 150,000 Centers
 - 23,000 Primary Care Facilities
 - Government Doctors & Facilities
 - Waiting Lines
 - No Fees!
 - Pervasive Corruption
 - Lack of Amenities
- Private
 - Private Doctors & Facilities
 - Pay for Service
 - Reasonable Service
- Middle Class & Rich
 - Get Good Service
 - Qualified Physicians
 - Attracting Foreigners
- Average Folks
 - Go only when sick
 - Avoid costly procedures
 - Indebtedness in rural areas

Encarta www.india.gov.in

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Family & Women

- Family is the Main Unit
 - Joint Families
 - Family Comes First
 - Individuals Less Important
 - Patriarchal System
 - Divorce Less Common
 - Social Factors
 - Economic Factors
 - Children
- Status of Women Improving
 - More are Educated
 - More have Jobs
 - More Acceptance of Working Women
 - Economic Necessity
 - More Progress Expected

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Travel in India

- Mumbai (Bombay), New Delhi, Chennai (Madras), Kolkata (Calcutta), & Bangalore
- Air travel on the rise
- Many travel by trains
- Local travel by bus
- Hotels are okay
- Food is mostly vegetarian
- Food and water use caution
- People in general are friendly
- Little violent crime
- But cautious of petty thieves




Indian Railways


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Tourism in India


- North India
- South India
- Coastal India



17th Century




11th Century




8th Century

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Monuments: All Religions




Sanchi, Buddhist, 3 BCE



Church Our Lady of Health, 18th Cent.




Kangaikonda Cholapuram Hindu Temple, 11th Cent




Agra Fort, 16th Cent.

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Monuments: Temples & Sculptures




Lord Bahubali
11th Cent.
Jainism



Halebid
12th Cent.
Sculptures



Temple
20th Cent.
Zoroastrian



Hawa Mahal
18th Cent.
Palace

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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

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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



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Customs and Traditions: Jewelry



Rasi Silks



Tota Ram

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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)




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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




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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



Doordarshan



Sunnetwork.tv

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Entertainment: Dance

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





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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




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Conclusions

- India is in Transition
- Middle Class is Gaining Economic Status
- There is a Widening Gap Between Rich and Poor
- Small Percentage is Very Rich
- Social System may not be Ready
- There is no Economic Safety Net
- Young Entrepreneurs should Embrace Rural Folks
 - Grameen Bank of Bangladesh
 - Micro Lending
 - Technological Empowerment
- Government Should Enforce Fair Distribution of Wealth



Thanks

- Thank You All for Attending
- Questions?
- Comments?