

Scribbles

Bringing colour to your lives

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From the Editor's desk...

"India is, the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only."

These words of the American author Mark Twain so well express the unique and rich cultural heritage and tradition of India.

India's history dates back probably to the beginning of human civilisation, in the mysterious culture of the Indus River that flourished in 2500 BC. Our history is punctuated by constant integration of migrating people from diverse cultures. The evidence of iron, copper and other metals which were widely prevalent in the Indian sub-continent at very early period is indeed indicative of the progress that this part of the world had made even then.

Geographically, India is a vast country so much so that even one of its states is bigger than many countries of Europe.

Amidst the diversity, we do have a cultural unity in India in as much as our philosophy of life, our customs, creeds and traditions are basically, more or less, the same.

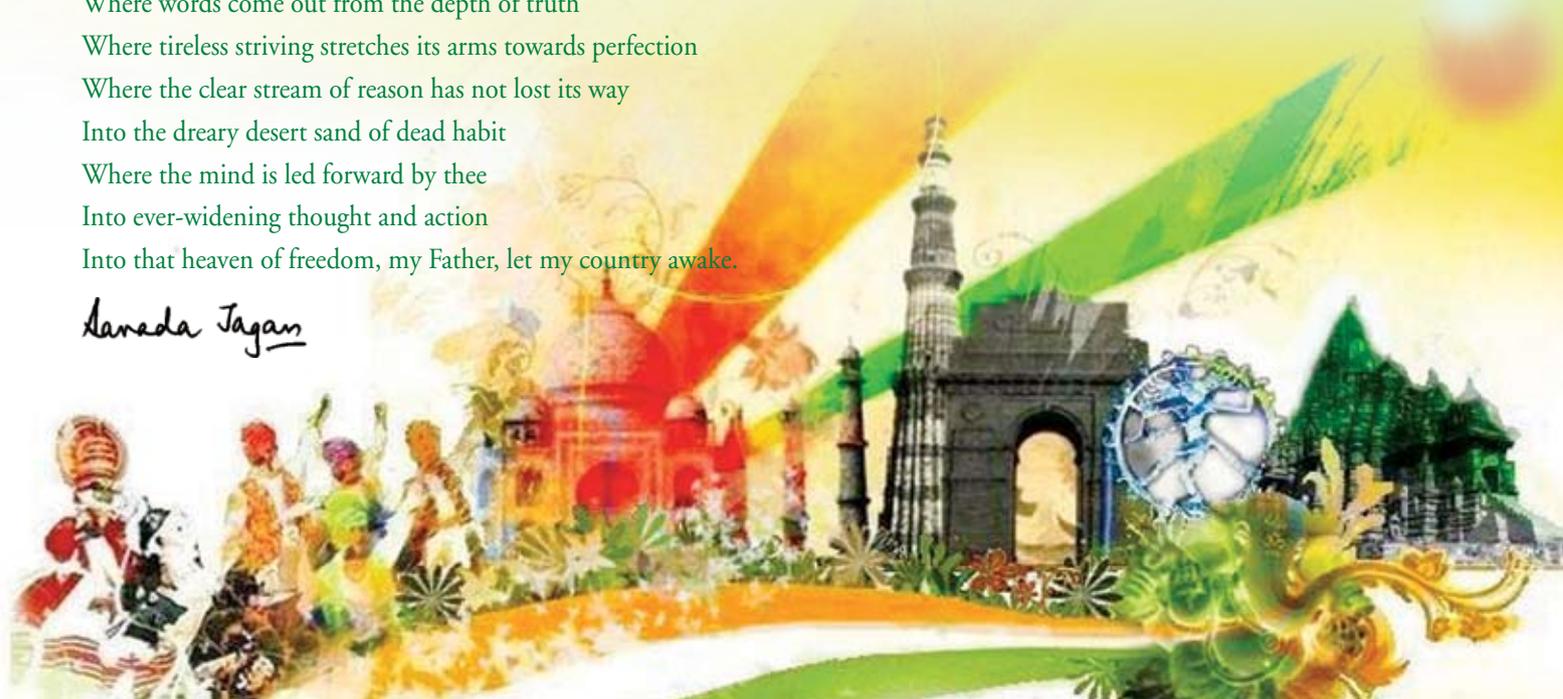
This issue of Scribbles is an attempt to take a look at the glorious heritage of India. Under this theme, we have looked at eight major topics - Architecture, Food, Education, Literature, Indian-ness of India, Clothing, Arts, and Subjects that originated in India. The eight Sanmartini teams were allotted one topic each.

I am sure you will appreciate that our ancient heritage and diverse culture cannot be fathomed in one issue of Scribbles. However, this is an attempt to enthuse you to understand our country better and join hands to make her proud.

Let us together strive for a fearless, self dignified, knowledgeable, truthful, hard-working and broad-minded India that Rabindranath Tagore prayed for:

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

Sarada Jagun



Architecture



Brihadeeswarar Temple (Big Temple)

This really is a gigantic temple. The granite vimanam (apex) of the temple called Dhakshinameru is 198 feet (60.4 m) high. The British government in 1886, appointed a German archaeologist Mr Hulsh to find out the history of the temple. He learnt Tamil and took copies of the inscriptions on the temple and proved that it was built by Raja Raja Chola.

Think of a time without electricity or modern machinery. Tonnes of granite had to be shipped to Thanjavur which is surrounded on three sides by rivers and canals.

The entrance gopuram named as Keralanthakan Thiruvayil is the main entrance of the temple where there are two huge granite pillars (single stone with no joints) of 40 ft height, 4 ft length and 3 ft width. Architects still wonder from where such huge stones were bought by the King.

The Dhvarabalaga statue is famous in the entrance of the main temple. He shows his aggressive face by pointing his fingers at the Lord inside the temple and by putting enormous strength by pressing his leg on the snake which swallows the elephant.

The temple was further developed by Nayakas by building an 18 ft long, 8 ft wide and 12 ft tall Nandi in a single stone. It is also interesting to know that the shadow of the temple does not fall on the ground during mid-day, the Nandi growing every year and that the top vimanam is made of single stone.

S Manavalan, *Production, Chemplast Sanmar, Karaikal.*



Dansborg Fort in Tranquebar

Tranquebar was a part of the Chola (10th to 13th century) and Pandya (14th century) kingdoms. In 15th century, under the rule of the Thanjavur king, Raghunatha Nayak, Tranquebar had been an active international trading port attracting Muslim traders, German theologians and Moravian entrepreneurs.

The construction of Fort Dansborg, an example of Scandinavian military architecture, built by a Danish captain named Ove Gjedde was a part of a treaty signed on 19th November 1620 between the King of Thanjavur and the King of Denmark mainly for exporting pepper from India.

The first Protestant missionaries to set foot in India were sent by Danish King Frederick IV to begin work at Tranquebar. As a result, Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg and Heinrich Pluetschau opened the first printing press of India and the New Testament was translated into Tamil for the first time.

The architectural journey of Tranquebar can be traced back to the 14th century. Masilamaninathar Temple was built by the King Maravarman Kulasekara Pandian in 1306. Then came the 17th century colonial fort and 18th century churches, the Bungalow on the Beach, Gate House, Shiva Temple, facade restoration of St. Theresa's Convent, former Danish governor's residence and Goldsmith Street houses.

Entry to this town is through an impressive two hundred year old Town Gate built with a Danish allure. Homes with thick stucco walls, massive pillars supporting classical pediments, verandas on the second storey, carriage porches etc. remind us of the times when this busy trading centre was an outpost of Danish culture.

Today, the town has a breezy and relaxed atmosphere.

L John Anand Antony, *Production, Chemplast Sanmar, Karaikal.*



Architectural splendours of India



Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal is a mausoleum built in a span of 22 years in the 17th century by Mughal emperor Shahjahan for his beloved wife Mumtaz. Huge white marble terrace on which rests the famous white marble dome, flanked by four tapering minarets. Within the dome lies the jewel-inlaid cenotaph of the deceased queen.

Ruins of Vijayanagar Empire, Hampi

The Vithala temple complex at Hampi in Karnataka has 56 musical pillars, which are constructed such that when struck, each one emits a unique musical tone. The Virupaksha temple, site of the ancient city of Vijayanagar, is the main centre of pilgrimage at Hampi. It has three towers, which rise to a height of 160 feet and nine tiered. It dates back to the first half of the fifteenth century.



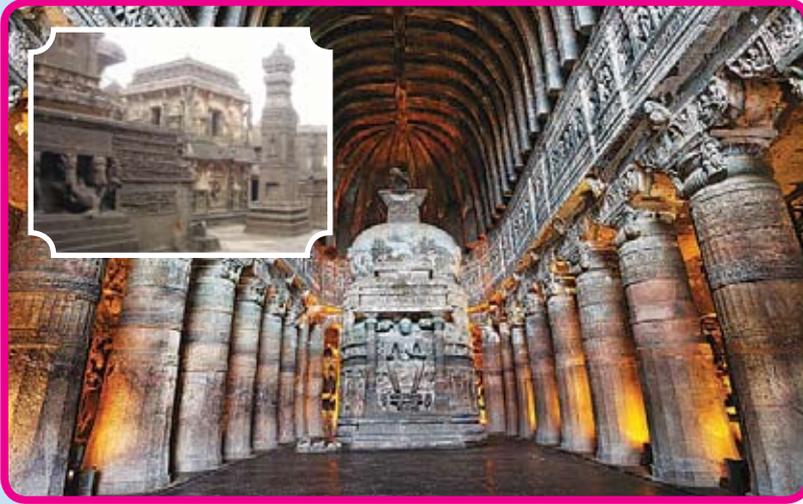
Sun Temple, Konark, Odisha

The Surya mandir (sun temple) of Konark is known not only for its architectural grandeur but also for the intricacy and profusion of sculptural work. The entire temple has been conceived as a chariot of the sun god with 24 wheels, each about 10 feet in diameter, with a set of spokes and elaborate carvings. Seven horses drag the temple and two lions guard the entry, crushing the elephants.

The Iron Pillar, Delhi

Dating back to the 4th century AD, the Iron pillar of Delhi bears Sanskrit inscription which states that it was erected in the honour of the Hindu god, Vishnu and in the memory of the Gupta King Chandragupta II. It highlights ancient India's achievements in metallurgy. The pillar is made of 98 percent wrought iron and has stood more than 1600 years without rusting or decomposing.





Ajanta & Ellora Caves, Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Ajanta Caves, thirty in number were made in 2nd century BC. The themes are religious and centre around Buddha. Paintings are done on ground of mud-plaster. Ellora caves are rock-cut shrines representing three different faiths, Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism, known for their striking proportion, elaborate workmanship, architectural content and sculptural ornamentation.

Indian Religious Architecture



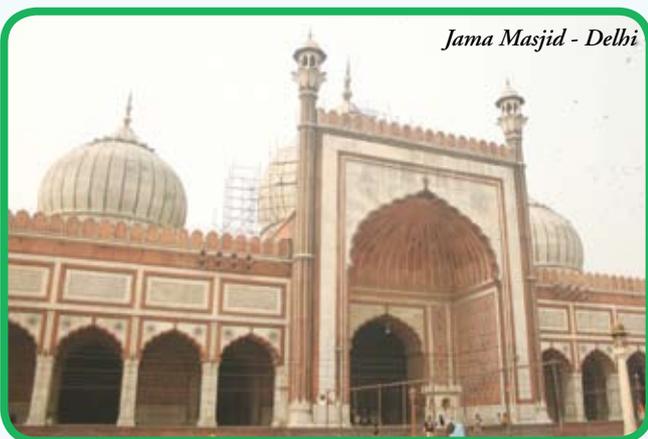
Srirangam Temple - Trichy

Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, also known as Thiruvaramam, is one of the most illustrious Vaishnav temples in the country. It is not just a temple but a temple-town, unique in its Sapta-Prakara formation, a temple centred settlement pattern that comprises Sapta (seven) concentric rectangular enclosures or prakarams. Constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture, the temple complex is massive in scale and spread over 156 acres (63.131 hectares) and this makes Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple the largest functioning temple in the world.

Velankanni, also known as Vailankanni, is a city located in Nagapattinam district in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu. It lies on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal. The Gothic style of architecture is a unique feature of the church. While the buildings have been painted white, roof of the church is made by the tiles with striking red in contrast to the colour of the walls. The environment around the shrine is spic and span radiating rays of hope and piety.



Velankanni Church - Nagapattinam



Jama Masjid - Delhi

The Jama Masjid in Delhi was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan. It is the largest mosque in India. The chief feature of this building is its symmetry and harmony. The mosque is indeed one of the best example of Mughal architecture. The main architect was Ustad Khalil. Five thousand workmen were employed daily and was completed in six years.

Indian-ness of India

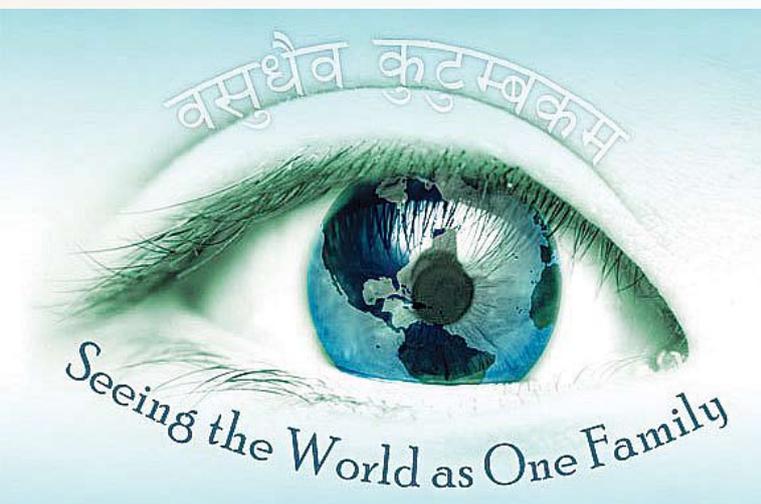


The Loch Ness Nature of Indian-ness

India in 2017 presents a chaotic picture to the world. We are hard-pressed to discern a pattern of harmony in the collective conscience of contemporary India. But travel back in time and some incredibly unique aspects become evident. Let me enumerate a few from my chart-toppers.

Indian-ness of India lies, paradoxically in the universality of Vasudaiva Kutumbam. Our ancients recognised the inter-connectivity of all living creatures. Their prayers selflessly sought welfare of the entire universe. They contemplated the illusory limitations of mortal experiences. The Upanishads scripted the idea of advaitam - non-duality of the soul and the supreme consciousness, later elegantly articulated by Adi Sankaracharya. Puranic lore of India is full of deep symbolism and representative imagery that captures complex concepts.

Take the Trimurthi concept of the creator, preserver and destroyer. Brahma represents a pulsating universe with a finite life cycle of 100 Brahma years (Einsteinesquely equivalent to 40 billion earth years). Vishnu represents an infinite and timeless multiverse in a state of equilibrium from whose navel, Brahma's universe is born with a big bang. Shiva the destroyer, is an essential element keeping the universe in balance through his cosmic dance.



After the Bhagawad Gita, my favourite is the Ramayana. Symbolically, Rama represents the soul of man, Sita the mind and Ravana, with his ten heads, represents the five senses (touch, smell, taste, sight and sound) and five negative emotions (Anger, Envy, Lust, Grief and Pride). When the mind is captured by the sensual and negatively disposed Ravana, the soul feels lost. It is only when the senses and negative emotions are conquered that the mind and soul reunite as a pair.

Awareness of India's philosophical heritage of Kritha, Thretha and Dwapara Yugas can help us rediscover its true Indian-ness. Until then, Kali Yuga's chaos will hold sway.

Capt S Krishnamurthi, *Operations, Sanmar Shipping, HO.*

Science behind Superstition

When our elders pester us for petty things, it irritates us because we don't understand the reason behind them. Listed below are some of these things along with the reason:

- Don't meddle or tap the house locks – Meddling with locks produces a disturbing noise and makes them loose, making it easy for goons to break in.
- Don't clean the house at night – Small things like gold ornaments might have fallen on the floor and we might throw them out.
- Don't eat spinach at night – Digestion of spinach takes a longer time and hence not advisable at night.
- Don't sleep at night under a Tamarind tree – At night, tamarind trees emit lots of carbon-di-oxide. So, we might risk our life due to loss of oxygen.
- Don't plant murungai maram in front of the house – Blanket worms can be seen in Murungai maram which will enter our houses.
- Tying of Banana trees at functions – During large gatherings, more carbon-di-oxide is let out. The banana trees absorb the carbon-di-oxide and let oxygen out for us.
- Don't sleep with your head North – Due to the Earth's gravitational effect, blood is pulled towards the brain and the other parts of the body will not get sufficient blood flow.
- Spray turmeric at the door-step – When we step on the turmeric, the insects or filth that we might have stepped on, get destroyed.
- Say 'Arjuna' during lightning – During lightning, ears get blocked. To avoid this, we should stiffen our chin and open our mouth. This happens easily when we say the word 'Arjuna'.

Rajesh Jagan, *Purchase, Chemplast Sanmar, HO.*

Music for Health

India is one country which nurtures a lot of smaller Indias in it. The country has a culturally diverse population. We have innumerable traditions, beliefs, art forms, cuisines, attires, languages, religions & festivals! There is one common favourite among people of all religions - Music. Carnatic Music and Hindustani Music have a history spanning millennia and has been developed over several eras.

Raga is a term which is regularly used in Indian Music. It is referred to as a 'miracle of microtones' and the swaras can range between 5 to 7 which covers 22 sruti's in an octave. The flexibility in Indian music provides the performer an opportunity to oscillate swaras where music plays the therapeutic role. The frequencies can reach the neighbouring swaras which intensifies the listener's musical experience. Overtime the raga music therapy system can trim a person's mind and behavioural pattern. Every listener will have a connection to their favourite raaga emotionally and physically.

The awareness of raga therapy has to grow in society. Research has embarked on a mission to re-discover the therapeutic ragas on a trial and error basis which is already providing promising results. Exposure to musical rhythms in bhajans and kirtans is capable of relaxing the mind which can also provide positive hormonal changes in the system. We all suffer from stress due to our hectic lifestyle and music is a safe solution to take some time off.

Listed below are some of my favourite Raagas and their benefits :

Raagas	Benefit
Sahana	Helps maintain emotional coolness, balance and controls anger.
Bhairavi	Provides relief for Tuberculosis, Cancer, Severe Cold, Sinus, toothache
Hindolam	Helps blood purification, improves digestion
Kapi	Helps get over anxiety & depression
Mohanam	Treatment of migraine
Anandabhairavi	Brings down blood pressure
Bageshree	To stimulate secretion of insulin
Kharaharapriya	Cures heart diseases & neurosis
Neelambari	To get rid of insomnia

S Swathy, Directors' Office, Sanmar Shipping, HO.



Nilavilakku

"The Nilavilakku denotes the hindu trinity of brahmalvishnulshiva. The base represents brahma, the stem represents visnu, the head represents shiva, the wicks represent parvathi and the heat represents lakshmi. This is the meaning of the hindu lamp. The hindu lamp is so beautiful in concept and design."



Atithi Devo Bhava

Unity amidst diversity has been one of the great characteristics of our country. Living together with love and harmony is the real essence of life. That is why we still retain the tradition of joint family system. This tradition, where the eldest in the family lays down rules, is a symbol of respect. Young people touch the feet of elders and take their blessings, especially on special occasions. People feel great when guests come to their homes. They greet their guests with respect and utmost care. India believes in the concept of "Atithi Devo Bhava" which means "The Guest is equal to God."

M Aravinda Kumar, R&D, SSCL, Berigai.

Lord Krishna welcoming Kuchela with utmost respect and washing his feet - a striking example of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'



Namaste

The namaste is one of the most popular Indian customs and isn't really just restricted to the Indian territory anymore. The Namaste, or 'namaskar', or 'namaskaara' is one of the five forms of traditional greetings mentioned in the ancient Hindu scriptures, the Vedas. It literally translates to "I bow to you", and greeting one another with it is a way of saying "May our minds meet", indicated by the folded palms placed before the chest. The word 'namaha' can also be translated as 'na ma' (not mine), to signify the reductions of one's ego in the presence of the other.



Always a Festive Season

India sees a large number of festivals, mainly because of the prevalence of diverse religions. The Muslims celebrate Eid, the Christians have Christmas, Good Friday and so on, the Sikhs have Baisakhi (harvesting of crop), and the birthdays of their Gurus, and the Hindus have Diwali, Holi, Makar Sankranti, the Jains have Mahavir Jayanti, the Buddhists celebrate the Buddha's birthday on Buddha Purnima, and quite honestly, the number is endless.

Joint Families

Also, in India, there exists the concept of a joint family, wherein the entire family (parents, wife, children and in some cases relatives) all live together. This is mostly because of the cohesive nature of the Indian society, and also reportedly helps in handling pressure and stress.



Kolam and Rangoli

Kolam or Rangoli is a form of drawing that is drawn by using rice flour/ chalk powder/white rock powder often using naturally/synthetically coloured powders and flower petals. A Kolam is a geometrical line drawing composed of curved loops, drawn around a grid pattern of dots. In South India, it is widely practised by female Hindu family members in front of their houses. Kolams are regionally known by different names in India, Rangolee in Maharashtra, Aripam in Mithila, Hase and Raongoli in Karnataka, Muggulu in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Golam in Kerala etc. More complex Kolams are drawn and colours are often added during holiday occasions and special events.

Performing Arts



Indian Music

Music is one of the archaic unbroken traditions in the world. It is said that the evolution of Indian Music goes back to the Vedas. Music in India is divided mainly into two classical forms, the Carnatic (in the South) and the Hindustani (in the North). Other varieties of Indian Music are the folk, popular, and pop.



Indian Dance

Indian Dance dates back to the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation. It is recorded on carved stones that the ancient Indian civilisation gave prominence to different forms of dance. Dance is the primeval expression of joy and wonder in any part of the world, transcending barriers of culture and development.



Indian Theatre

The evolution of Indian theatres can be traced back to 200 BC and AD 200, when Bharatamuni wrote the Natyashastra. The dates cannot be ascertained with any certainty. The word 'Natyā' means drama and 'Shastra' means science. According to this text, theatre was created by Brahma himself on the request of Indra, the king of the gods. Indra felt that the world needed a diversion that would appeal and be available to all occupational groups.



Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall, Chennai

Indian Cinema

The period of Dhundiraj Govind Phalke (early twentieth century) is considered as the date of evolution of Indian films. Phalke's Raja Harishchandra is considered as the first film of India. Life in India would not be the same without the exuberance of cinema. Song and dance, melodrama, relevant messages - Indian films have them all, and usually people can expect all together in one film.



Guess Who?! Clue No. 4: He was the one who first introduced the word "Hinduism" into the English language in 1816.

Silambattam

The culture of Tamil Nadu is seen today in various forms of art. When we say the word ‘art’, only music or dance comes to our mind. But there are many other important art forms that originated in Tamil Nadu such as Silambattam, Kalariyattam, Varma Kalai which are almost extinct now.

Silambattam is a martial art. It uses a weapon called Silambam (bamboo stick). Ideally, the silambam should touch the forehead of the practitioner from the ground, measuring around 1.68 meters. The stick is made from bamboo or teak wood usually and strengthened by beating it on the surface of running water.

The history of Silambattam dates back to the Pandya dynasty. References in Silappadikaram and other works of Sangam literature show that Silambattam has been practised as far back as the 2nd century. It has been popular mainly in the districts of Madurai, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi. Besides being a martial art, Silambattam is also played as a game in Tamil Nadu.

Silambattam as a game

It begins with a salutation to God, the opponent, the spectators and the teachers of the players. The player has



to touch the opponent’s body by using his silambam. The player who touches the opponent more, with his silambam, wins the contest.

To take a count of the touches with the silambam, the ends of the silambam are dipped in a sticky white powder, which make a prominent mark when it comes in contact with the opponent’s body. In order to be successful in silambam, players need to have rapid foot movements.

The duration of the game is usually 10 minutes. The winner will be announced based on the points taken.

D Sathya Prakash, *Trainee, Sanmar Foundries, Viralimalai.*

Family Bonding as an Art in India

I feel family bonding is also an art. We, Indians, are adept in building family structure and family relationship.

India has tremendous cultural and ethnic diversity. Every member has his/her own role, often influenced by age and gender.

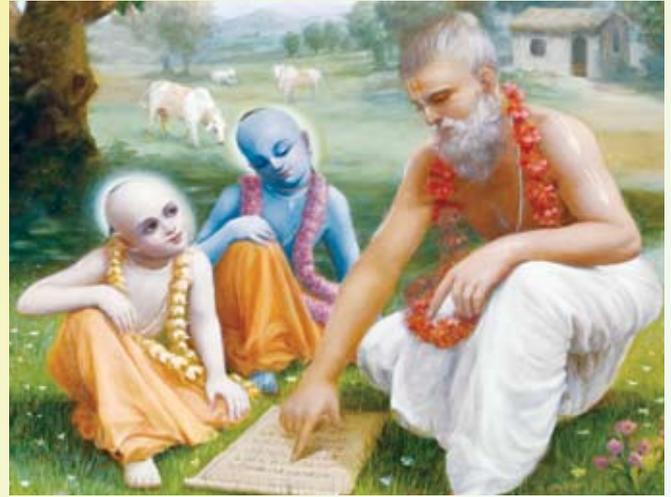


Marriage is considered to be one of the most important phase of one’s life. The arranged marriage system works thus - families of prospective brides and grooms search for suitable matches, generally within their own community. The decision of marriage is taken collectively by the entire family. Marriages are considered to be a union of the families, rather than that of just two individuals.

Relationships are valued and treasured. Several festivals and functions bring the families together very often. Relationships are even celebrated - “Raksha Bandhan” celebrates the loving bond between a brother and sister, Sumangali Pooja, Karadaiyan Nonbu, Kethara Gowri Vratam celebrate the relationship between husband and wife.

Vanaja Mathan Raj W/o **T Mathan Raj**, *Production, Sanmar Foundries, Viralimalai.*

Education



Education in Ancient India

Education in Ancient India originated with the Gurukul system. It was residential in nature with the Shishyas (students) and the Guru (teacher) living within the same house. The students resided together irrespective of their social standing. Indian education achieved a noticeable position in the early Vedic period (1200 BC).

The Vedas included the Sanskrit language which became the language of classical learning. Besides the pronunciation of the Vedas and their implication, phonology, metrics, elementary grammar, and etymology were also taught. Though Vedic education was not transmitted to people of low strata it inspired the modern day education system.

The school lasted for 8 hours a day. In fair weather, classes were held under the shelter of a tree. In the rainy season, schools ran under a thatched roof. Temple colleges of the past were well-known for their spacious buildings and the residential complexes of the students and the Gurus. The Apastamba Dharma Sutra proclaims that though the teacher is the sole guardian of the learner, he cannot

exercise arbitrary power. It declares that he cannot utilise the pupil's services for his own advantage. For the student's offences, he can punish him in the prescribed manner but not in any way he likes.

Brahmacharya System

Brahmacharya summarises the responsibilities of a student. It entails rigorous self-discipline and self-control. All sorts of pleasures and luxuries must be avoided by the pupils. Some of the occasions on which termination of classes was prescribed include dusty storm by day, playing of certain musical instruments within the hearing of the pupil, cries of animals, screech of an owl, heavy downpour, rattling of thunderbolt, earthquake, eclipse, fall of a meteor, festival, certain Tithi and Nakshatras, e.g. full moon day. Samavartana marks the end of a pupil's period of study and they return home.

G Arjun, *Planning, BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd., Karapakkam.*

Narasimman V, *Trainee, Flowserve Sanmar, Karapakkam.*

Gurukul System

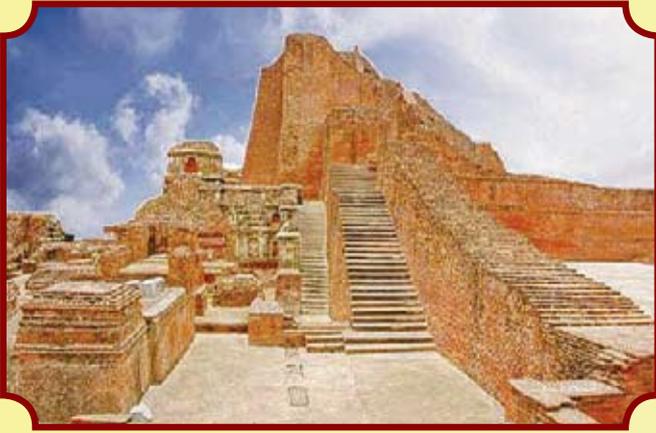
Gurukul is a combination of two words Guru (Teacher in Sanskrit) + Kula (Upanishad). During the British rule, they served as South Asia's Primary educational institutions. Basically, a Guru does not receive fees from Shishya. It is the Shishya who offers Gurudakshina before leaving the Gurukul. The ancient universities served as a knowledge hub in 64 different fields like Agriculture, Surgery, Ayurveda and many more fields for both Indians and foreigners. In this type of education, the students got more practical exposure.

Some of the famous scholars who graduated from these universities were Chanakya, Vishwakarma and Aryabhata.

Srivatsan SV, *GET, BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd., Karapakkam.*



Ancient Universities in India



Nalanda functioned from 500 AD to 1300 AD. It had 300 lecture halls, laboratories, libraries and an observatory. Chinese travellers recorded that 10,000 students were taught by 200 professors in Nalanda. It was founded during Gupta age.



Somapura Mahavihara was established during late 8th century in Bengal and flourished till 12th century. It was a major centre of learning for Bauddha Dharma (Buddhism), Jina Dharma (Jainism) and Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism).



Vallabhi was the renowned seat of learning in the western India. It was the centre for the advanced learning in Hinayana Buddhism. Secular subjects like Arthasastra (economics), Niti Shastra (law) and Chikitsa Sastra (medicine) were also taught here. Students who graduated from this university used to be employed in the royal courts as administrators with huge responsibilities.



Takshasila flourished between 600 BC and 500 AD, in the kingdom of Gandhar. 68 subjects were taught including Vedas, Grammar, Philosophy, astronomy, medicine, surgery, politics, archery warfare, music, commerce etc.



Vikramashila was located in the Bhagalpur district of Bihar. It was well known for its training of Tantra. One of its most popular graduates was Atiśa Dipankara, a founder of the Sharma traditions of Tibetan Buddhism.

Odantapuri University

Odantapuri University was established by Dharmapala of Pala dynasty during late 8th century in Magadha (which is in modern day Bihar) and flourished for 400 years till 12th century. The famous Acharya Sri Ganga who was a professor at the Vikramashila University was a graduate of this Odantapuri University. According to the ancient Tibetan records there were about 12,000 students studying at this University. Ancient Tibetan texts mention this as one among the five great Universities of its time, the other four being Vikramashila, Nalanda, Somapura and Jagaddala Universities – all located in ancient India.

Pushpagiri University

Pushpagiri University was established in ancient Kalinga kingdom (modern day Odisha) and was spread across Cuttack and Jajpur districts. It was established in 3rd century and flourished for the next 800 years till 11th century. The university campus was spread across three adjoining hills – Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri and Udayagiri. This was one of the most prominent centres of higher education in ancient India along with the universities of Takshashila, Nalanda and Vikramashila. The Chinese traveller Xuanzang (Huiyen Tsang) visited this university in 639 CE.

Know your Teachers

- Acharya was a teacher who taught Vedas without charging fee from the pupils.
- Upadhyaya was the one who adopted teaching as a profession to earn his livelihood and taught only a portion of the Veda or Vedangas.
- Charakas or wandering scholars toured the country in quest of higher knowledge. They accumulated a treasure of knowledge by constant travel and gladly imparted it to others.
- Guru was the one who used to lead a gruhasta life and earn his livelihood by imparting education to his disciples.
- Yaujanasatika were teachers famous for their profound scholarship that students from distant places would come to seek their guidance.
- Sikshaka was a teacher who gave instruction in arts like dancing.

Salotgi in Karnataka was an important Centre of learning. It had 27 hostels for its students who hailed from different provinces. This college was richly endowed in 945 AD by Narayana the minister of Krishna III with the revenues of houses, land and levies on marriages and other ceremonies.

Ujjain was famous for its secular learning including mathematics and astronomy.

Ennayiram in Tamilnadu provided free boarding and tuition to 340 students. Other important centres of learning in South India were Sringeri and Kanchi.

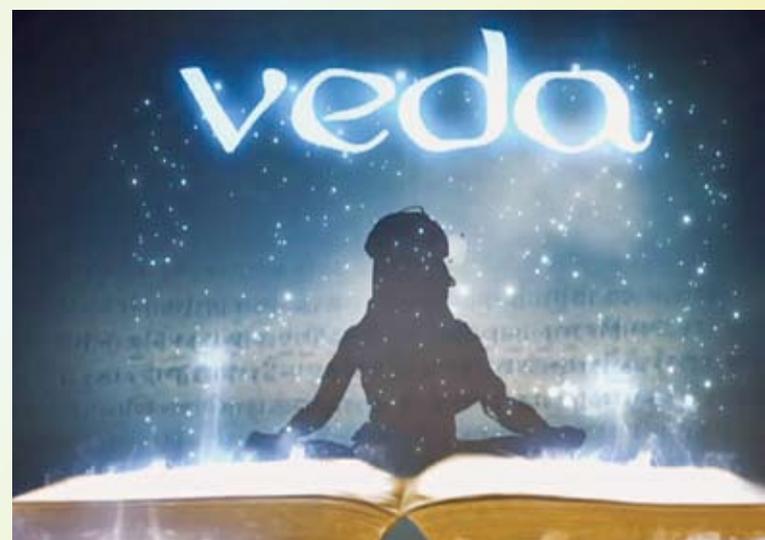
Vedic Teaching

There is a Chinese proverb which says, “Give a man a fish, he will get feed for a day, Teach him how to fish, he will get feed for his lifetime”.

But there was a small change in the educational system of ancient India - “Don’t give a man a fish, also don’t teach him how to fish, instead inspire him to discover his own way of fishing”.

In the Vedic days, the teaching of the four Vedas, the hymns and ritual practices were seen. Education at that time was free because no outside agency could interfere in matters of education. With evolving times, a large number of learning centres were established across ancient India. Some of the major universities that flourished across ancient India were: Taxila University, established around 2700 years ago and offered specialisation in over 64 different fields ranging from vedas, ayurveda to warfare and astronomy.

Karthic S, GET, Pentair Sanmar, Viralimalai.

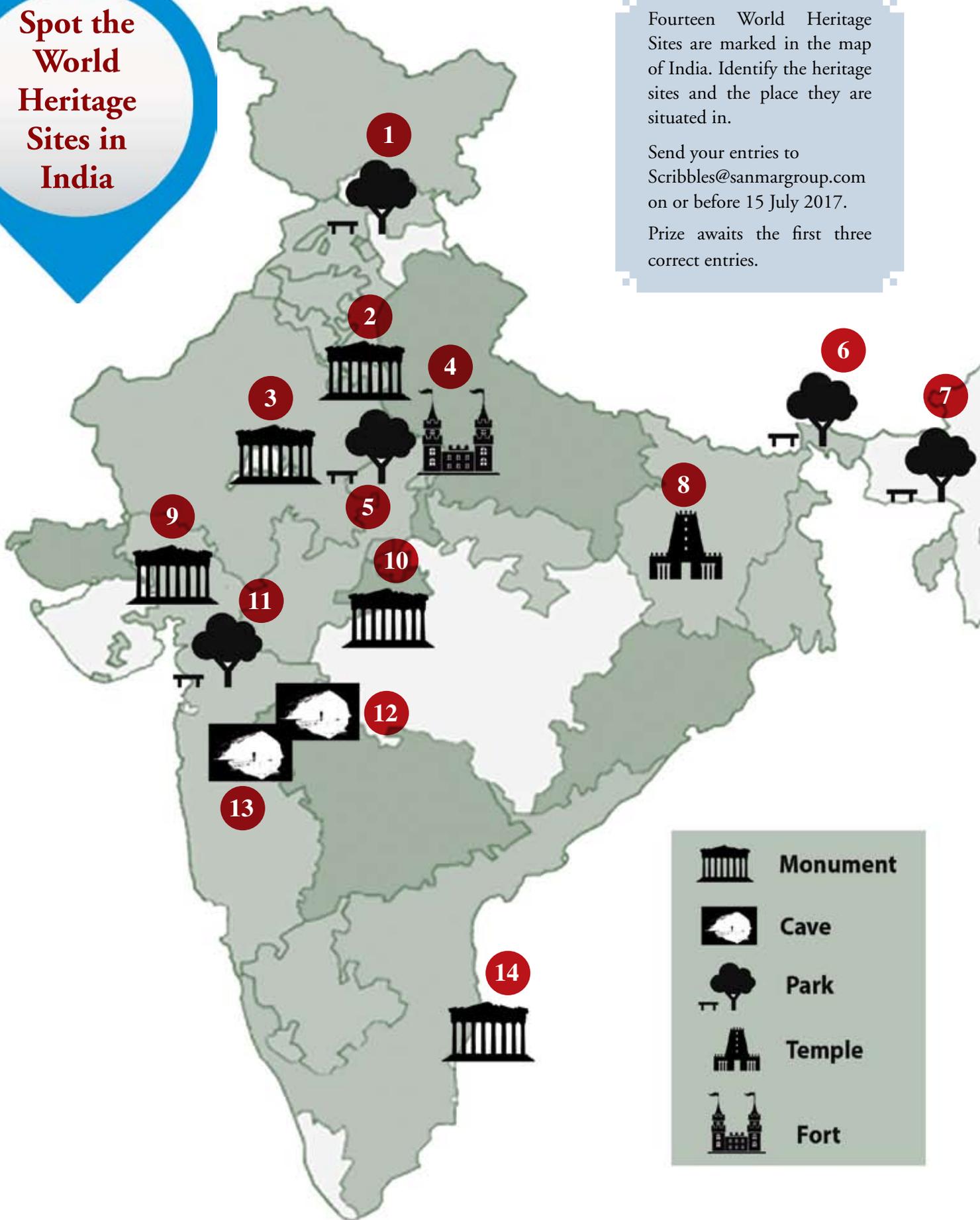


Spot the World Heritage Sites in India

Fourteen World Heritage Sites are marked in the map of India. Identify the heritage sites and the place they are situated in.

Send your entries to Scribbles@sanmargroup.com on or before 15 July 2017.

Prize awaits the first three correct entries.



	Monument
	Cave
	Park
	Temple
	Fort

Quiz on Indian Heritage

1. The illustrious names of Aryabhata and Varahamihira are associated with the age of the
 - a. Guptas
 - b. Kushanas
 - c. Mauryas
 - d. Palas
2. Gupta empire declined in the fifth century AD because of
 - a. Chalukya raids
 - b. Greek invasion
 - c. Hun invasion
 - d. Pallava raids
3. During whose reign did the Gandhara School of art blossom?
 - a. Harsha
 - b. Ashok
 - c. Kanishka
 - d. Chandragupta 2
4. The capital of Kosala kingdom was -
 - a. Ujjain
 - b. Kasi
 - c. Kausambi
 - d. Ayodhya
5. Bimbisara belonged to which of the following dynasties?
 - a. Mauryan
 - b. Haryanka
 - c. Nanda
 - d. Kushan
6. Who among the following was the first to visit India?
 - a. Hiuen-Tsang
 - b. Megasthenese
 - c. I Ching
 - d. Fahien
7. The Ajanta painting belongs to which period
 - a. Harappan
 - b. Mauryan
 - c. Buddhist
 - d. Gupta
8. Which one of the following schools of sculpture thrived during the post-Ashokan period?
 - a. Gandhara
 - b. Sarnath
 - c. Mathura
 - d. All of the above
9. Who was a contemporary of Alexander the Great?
 - a. Bimbisara
 - b. Chandragupta Maurya
 - c. Ashoka
 - d. Pushyamitra Sunga
10. Whose achievements are inscribed in the Allahabad Pillar?
 - a. Chandragupta Maurya
 - b. Samudra Gupta
 - c. Vikramaditya
 - d. Skand Gupta
11. The temple of Konark was built by Narasimha of the
 - a. Maratha Administration
 - b. Chola Administration
 - c. Ganga Administration
 - d. Vijayanagar Administration
12. Which rulers built the Ellora temples?
 - a. Chalukya
 - b. Sunga
 - c. Rashtrakuta
 - d. Pallava
13. The great silk-route to the Indians was opened by -
 - a. Kanishka
 - b. Ashoka
 - c. Harsha
 - d. Fahien
14. Aryabhata, believed to have been born in the 5th century AD, was a most renowned scholar of
 - a. Astronomy
 - b. Biology
 - c. Medicine
 - d. Physiology
15. The Iron Pillar at Mehrauli in Delhi is believed to record the achievements of
 - a. Ashoka
 - b. Chandragupta Maurya
 - c. Samudragupta
 - d. Chandragupta 2

1-a, 2-c, 3-c, 4-d, 5-b, 6-b, 7-d, 8-d, 9-b, 10-b, 11-c, 12-c, 13-a, 14-a, 15-d

Answers:

Literature



Indian Literature

The rich heritage of India is the result of development in the social, economic, cultural and political life of our people over thousands of years. India has a rich and vast culture, tradition, history, language, heritage, acclaimed ancient literature and writings.

Ancient Literature

Our ancient literature guides, teaches us the conscience in our everyday life.

The Vedic Literature

The earliest works of Indian literature were orally transmitted until scripting came in to existence.

In the Vedic Literature of ancient India, Sanskrit became the vehicle of expression of thought. As most of the literature was written in Sanskrit, which was brought to India by the Aryans probably sometime in the middle of the second millennium BC, it is called “Vedic” Sanskrit. It is the language of the Vedic hymns. This form of Sanskrit, in which most of the later literature is written, is commonly referred to as “Classical Sanskrit”. It has an unbroken literary tradition for over 3,000 years. It is rich and has vast literary, religious and philosophical heritage.

The Vedas

The major literary and religious works of the Vedic Period are the four Vedas and the Upanishads.

- *Rig Veda*
- *Sama Veda*
- *Yajur Veda*
- *Atharvana Veda*

These works still hold immense authority in the sphere of spiritual and religious literature. The idea and principles of Karma (action) and Moksha (spiritual liberation) are widely accepted by the people of all faith. The Upanishads are the best creations of Aryan talent and they

contain the cream of Aryan thought. The third part of the Vedic literature of ancient India contains the Vedangas. It includes grammar, phonetics, astronomy, medicine, archery etc.

The two great epics

The two great epics are Mahabharata and Ramayana. They were perhaps put to writing in their present form in the second century AD. The Bhagavad Gita, a later addition to the Mahabharata enshrines a philosophical doctrine and describes the three paths of Salvation - Karma, Gyan and Bhakti. The Ramayana, the story of Rama, is shorter than the Mahabharata and is full of adventure.

Our Own Tamil Literature

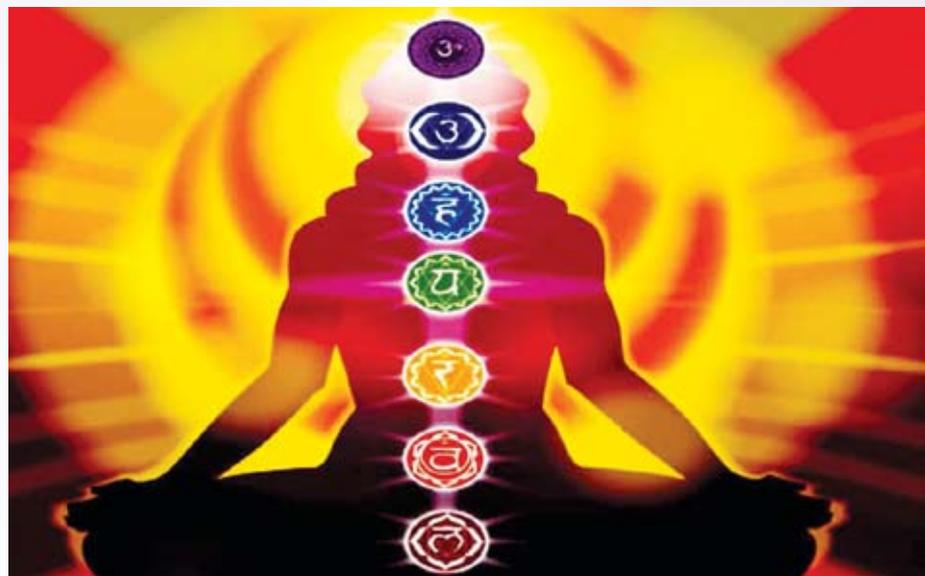
When it comes to literature and writings, can we miss the works in Tamil, the oldest of all Indian languages? According to tradition, three literary gatherings or Sangams were held where many sages and poets recited their compositions. This body of literature embraces themes like politics, war and love.

The famous works are Ettuthogai, Tolkappiyam and the Pattuppattu. The other famous works of early Tamil literatures are - The Silappadikaram and Manimekalai.

And of course Thirukural (Sacred Couplets) which is the masterpiece of human thought. It is the most celebrated of the “Eighteen Ethical Works” in Tamil literature. It is the work that has a universal and timeless appeal with practical concerns and insights into daily life. So it is the most acclaimed of all ancient writings globally.

Every country has its own heritage, culture, literature and writings. But ours is special because of its diversity in all facets. So it is no surprise that ours is highly acclaimed, dignified, diversified and accepted universally.

S Thangavel, *Instrumentation, Cabot Sanmar, Mettur.*



Find out much you know of the epic Ramayana

- On which rivers banks was Ayodhya located?**
(a) Ganga (b) Sarayu (c) Gomti (d) Yamuna”
- What is the name of the wife of Bharata?**
(a) Sita (b) Urmila (c) Mandavi (d) Srutakiti
- What was the name of the saint who had approached Dhasharatha to kill Taraka?**
(a) Vyasa (b) Vashishta (c) Kautilya (d) Vishwamitra
- Who was the Chief Minister of King Rama?**
(a) Shakhuni (b) Chanikya (c) Sumantra (d) Srikanta
- What is the kingdom ruled by Janaka?**
(a) Ayodhya (b) Kosala (c) Mithila (d) Panchavati
- What was the name of the asura who guised as a deer to help Ravana kidnap sita?**
(a) Surpanakha (b) Maricha (c) Ravana (d) Khar
- Who among the following fought with Rama on Rama’s side?**
(a) Ravana (b) Vibhishana (c) Indrajit (d) Kumbhakarna
- Who was the son of Ravana?**
(a) Kumbhakarna (b) Meghnada (c) Vibhishana (d) Maricha
- Hanuman is the son of the god of**
(a) Sun (b) Wind (c) Fire (d) Death
- In which rishis asrama did Sita give birth to twins ?**
(a) Vyasa (b) Vasistha (c) Vishwamitra (d) Valmiki
- Who among the following is not an author of any version of Ramayana?**
(a) Valmiki (b) Vyasa (c) Kambar (d) Tulsidas
- What forest did Ravana put Sita in after abduction?**
(a) Asoka (b) Deodar (c) Mango (d) Coconut
- Who among these is the wife of Ravana?**
(a) Sita (b) Ambika (c) Mandodari (d) Manthara



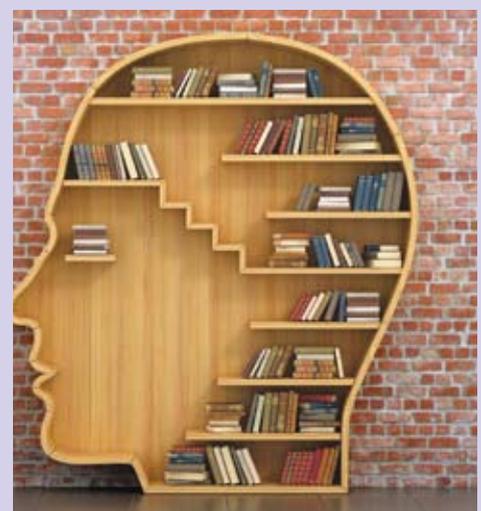
- Ravana was a devotee of which God?**
(a) Vishnu (b) Rakshasa (c) Shiva (d) None
- What is the capital of Kosala?**
(a) Panchavati (b) Ayodhya (c) Mithila (d) None
- What is the birth star of Lord Rama?**
(a) Anuradha (b) Rohini (c) Ashwini (d) Punarvasu
- Who among these is not a wife of Dasharatha?**
(a) Kausalya (b) Sukhanya (c) Sumitra (d) Kaikeyi
- In which volume(Kanda) did Rama meet Hanuman & Sugriva?**
(a) Yuddakanda (b) Balakanda (c) Uttarakanda (d) Kishkindakanda
- Where does Lord Rama take leave of his life, at the end of Ramayana?**
(a) Ganga (b) Sarayu (c) Godavari (d) Penna
- Who was the author of sanskrit version (also the earliest version) of Ramayana?**
(a) Valmiki (b) Kambar (c) Tulsidas (d) Molla

13.c, 14.c, 15.b, 16.d, 17.c, 18.d, 19.b, 20.a
11.b, 12.c, 13.d, 14.c, 15.c, 16.b, 17.b, 18.b, 19.b, 10.d, 11.a, 12.a,

ANSWERS:

Indian literature is generally believed to be the oldest in the world. With vast cultural diversities, there are around two dozen officially recognized languages in India. Over thousands of years, huge literature has been produced in various languages in India. It is to be noted that a large part of Indian literature revolves around devotion, drama, poetry and songs. Sanskrit language dominated the early Indian literary scene whereas languages like Prakrit and Pali too had fair share as they were the languages of the common people.

With the coming of the British in India, works started to be written in English language. As more and more Indians became well versed with the English language, the number of works in English literature began to grow. Some of the most noted Indian born or Indian writers are RK Narayan, Vikram Seth, Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Amitav Ghosh, Khushwant Singh, Anita Desai and Jhumpa Lahiri.



Indian Literature at a glance

Indian literature is one of the oldest and richest literatures around the world.

- The Indian constitution recognises 22 official languages. Each language has its own regional literature.



- The first Indian literary work was a collection of Sanskrit hymns that was orally transmitted.
- The Vedas were either sung or recited and taught by the Indians.
- Sanskrit was the primary sacred

language of Hinduism and a philosophical language in Buddhism and Jainism. It literally means refined, adorned and/or highly decorated.

The religious texts were the following:

- The Vedas
- Brahmanas – Prose text about sacrificial rituals
- Aryanakas – discussion and interpretation of dangerous rituals
- Indian literary masterpieces written in epic form were Ramayana, an epic by Valmiki and Vyasa's Mahabharata.



Classical Sanskrit literature

- Started with the flowering of the Gupta dynasty
- Reflected values of Hinduism
- Languages used were Sanskrit and Prakrit
- Influenced by the Caste system



- Motifs were largely based on religion, mythology and heroism.

Medieval Literature

- The era when Islamic dynasties conquered many territories
- Unique version of local myths, legends, romances and epics emerged.

Colonial Period to Independence

- The era wherein European traders reached and colonised the Indian subcontinent.
- The literature combined the classical Indian literature with the European style of writing.

Overall, Indian literature is based on piety, a deeply religious spirit.



Palm-leaf manuscripts were made out of dried

palm leaves, used as writing materials as early as 5th century BCE. Hindu temples often served as centres where ancient manuscripts were routinely used for learning and where the texts were copied when they wore out. In South India, temples and associated mutts served custodial functions, and a large number of manuscripts on Hindu philosophy, poetry, grammar and other subjects were written, multiplied and preserved inside the temples.



Guess What? Where?



Identify this monument located in the Central part of India.

Send in your entries to scribbles@sanmargroup.com

Food



India and Spices

Indian food isn't just food, it's an experience. India is famous for its various types of food and culinary styles. Indian spices are the pure elixir that give life to Indian Food.

The Legacy

Historically, spices were a key component of India's external trade. They find their mention in ancient scriptures like Vedas, Egyptian papyruses and the Old Testament.

The Treasure

Indians have been well versed with growing spices and also with their culinary and medicinal applications much before the rest of the world. The lure of these spices has led to historic explorations, wars and conquests and the country continues to retain its stature as the Spice Bowl of the World.

A Portuguese expedition brought spices for the first time to Europe from India in 1501. In 2001, the British Foreign Secretary claimed chicken tikka masala to be Britain's national dish.

India is the world's largest producer of spices. Asafoetida, bay leaves, cardamom, cayenne pepper, chilli, cilantro, cinnamon, oleoresins, cumin, pepper, turmeric, ginger, curry powder, cloves, coriander seeds, garam masala and mint are some of the Indian Spices.

The following are some of the numerous health benefits for the use of these spices:

- Cardamom - carminative, stimulant and improves digestion
- Cayenne (Red) Pepper - as an effective pain reliever and for its cardiovascular benefits
- Cinnamon - as a sedative for smooth muscle, anticonvulsant, diuretic, and anti-ulcerative
- Ginger - alleviating symptoms of gastrointestinal distress

S Ranjith, Product Engineering, Pentair Sanmar, Viralimalai.



Highlight of Indian Food

Before it turned into an art that involved culinary expertise, food in India was about rasas and doshas.

- Taste or rasa in Sanskrit guides the tongue and it is a balance or misbalance of these rasas that cause or correct the doshas in body
- In short, whatever one eats is believed to be the cause and cure of all ailments

Thus, food has been as much an art as science in our culture which revolves round a delightful culinary tradition.

Indian food is said to be based on six kinds of tastes (rasas)- Sweet (madhura), Salty (lavana), Sour (amala), Pungent (katu), Bitter (tikta) and Astringent (kasya).

Cuisine of Tamil Nadu

Tamil cuisine is an ancient cuisine in India. It is known for its medicinal properties too. Especially, idli, sambar and chutney which is the staple morning food of Tamil Nadu is said to be highly rich in its nutrition content.

Blending of spices enriches the taste of the food. The food is served on a banana leaf. Some regions such as Karaikudi (Chettinad), Tirunelveli, Madurai are specifically known for their culinary skills.

Lunch in Tamil Nadu, refers mostly to a meal consisting of rice, sambar, rasam, vegetables, buttermilk and curd. This food helps in digestion, suppressing body heat and various other hygiene factors too. Places like Ambur, Dindigul are famous for their biryani, a spicy Indian meal mostly preferred by non-vegetarians. The parotta of the South, with its special curry, deserves a mention in the cuisine of Tamil Nadu.

J Ashwin, Planning, Xomox Sanmar, Viralimalai.

Traditional Foods of India

The traditional food of India has been widely appreciated for its fabulous use of herbs and spices. Indian cuisine is known for its large assortment of dishes. The cooking style varies from region to region and is largely divided into South Indian and North Indian cuisine. In the last couple of years, as a result of globalisation, there has been Indianisation of various international cuisines.



Andhra Pradesh
Gongura Pachadi

Arunachal Pradesh
Smoked pork in sengmora xaak




Assam
Masor Tenga

Bihar
Litti Chokha




Chhattisgarh
Debrori

Goa
Bebinca




Gujarat
Khandvi

Haryana
Bajra Khichdi




Himachal Pradesh
Madra

Jammu and Kashmir
Kalaadi Cheese




Jharkhand
Rugda

Karnataka
Pandi Curry




Kerala
Irachi ishtu

Madhya Pradesh
Bhutte Ka Kees



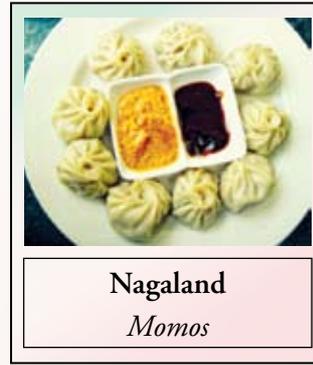
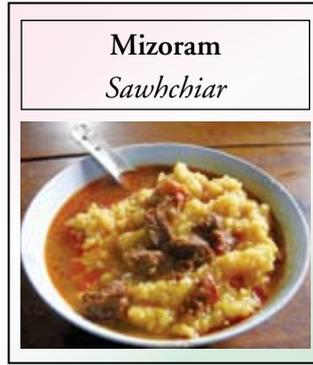

Maharashtra
Thalipeeth

Manipur
Khaman Asinba Kangshoi

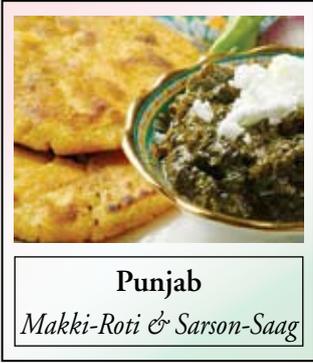
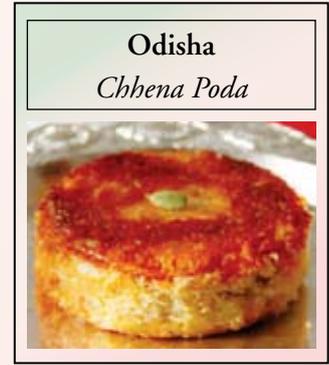




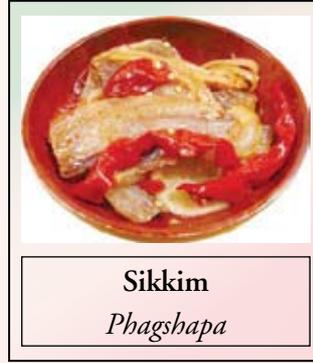
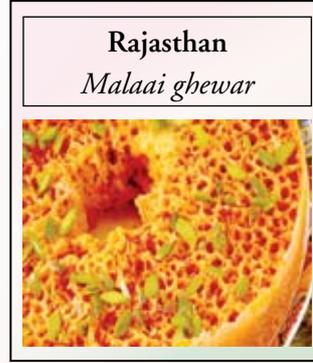
Meghalaya
Jadoh



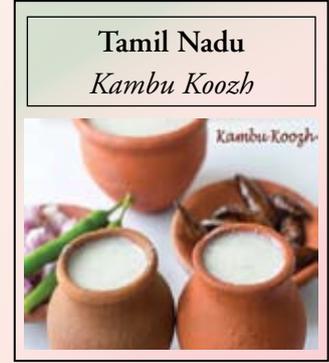
Nagaland
Momos



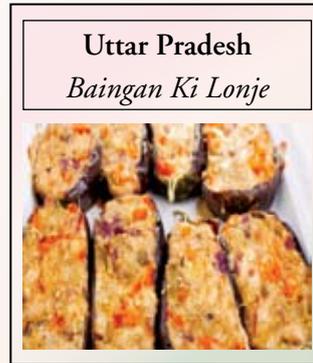
Punjab
Makki-Roti & Sarson-Saag



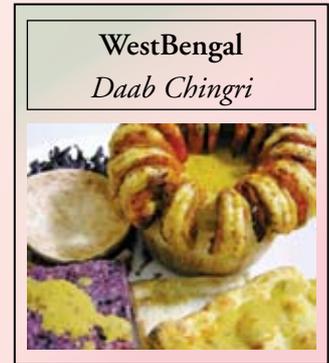
Sikkim
Phagshapa



Tripura
Awan Bangwi



Uttarakhand
Bal Mithai



What you'll find in the North:

- * *Prominent dishes:* You'll find lots of breads and curries in the North. Much of what you eat in the restaurants in the West – such as naan bread, rotis, samosas, curries such as palak paneer (spinach and cheese) and aloo ghoobi (potato and cauliflower), and the like – is North Indian.
- * *Spice mixture and powder:* Garam masala is the predominant spice mixture used.
- * *Sour ingredient:* Sourness is a prevalent flavour in Indian food. Amchoor (dried mango powder) is used as a souring agent in curries.

* *Dried herb:* In the North, some sauces are accented with the use of dried fenugreek leaves.

* *Hot drink:* In the North, you finish a meal off with tea or chai.



What you'll find in the South:

- * *Prominent dishes:* Generally speaking, South Indian cooking is based around rice, lentils, and stews. Dishes such as dosa (a lentil and rice crêpe), idli (steamed lentil rice cakes), saaru/rasam (tomato, tamarind, and lentil soup), and hulisambar (spicy lentil and vegetable stew) are all from the South.

* *Spice mixture and powder:* Huli pudi (sambar powder) is often used to spice dishes.

* *Sour ingredient:* Tamarind is used in stews.

* *Dried herbs:* Dried curry leaves flavour some of the soups.

* *Hot drink:* You'd finish off the meal with a special type of coffee made with chicory.



Clothing



India has a great diversity in terms of weaves, fibres, colours and material of clothing. Colour codes are followed in clothing based on the religion and ritual concerned. For instance, Hindu ladies wear white clothes to indicate mourning, while Parsis and Christians wear white to weddings. The clothing in India also encompasses the wide variety of Indian embroidery.

Traditional Indian clothing for women in the north and east are saris worn with choli tops; a long skirt called a lehenga or pavada worn with choli and a dupatta scarf to create an ensemble called a gagra choli; or salwar kameez suits, while many south Indian women traditionally wear sari and children wear pavadai. For Indian men, it is Dhoti, Lungi, Kurta Pyjama, Pants, and Shirts.

By and large, clothing in India varies depending on the different ethnicity, geography, climate and cultural traditions of the people of each region of India.

Chorno & Kediya

When we talk about the dressing trend of Gujarat, the first thing comes to mind is tradition and culture. The Gujarati dressing style is quite cultural but at the same time, it reflects the changes which the state has gone through since decades. Amidst the revolution in the fashion world, the clothing style of Gujarat has adapted itself according to the need without diminishing its identity. The outfits brighten up the atmosphere and surroundings with burnished glossy shades. Besides the dresses, the women beautify themselves by wearing aesthetic and fancy jewellery and fashionable accessories.

The way the geographical area of Gujarat presents so much variety, so do its clothing trends. The fine thread work, use of beads, astragals, small patches and clothe pieces are commonly found in Gujarati outfits. This is the fineness and creativity of Gujarati embroiders.

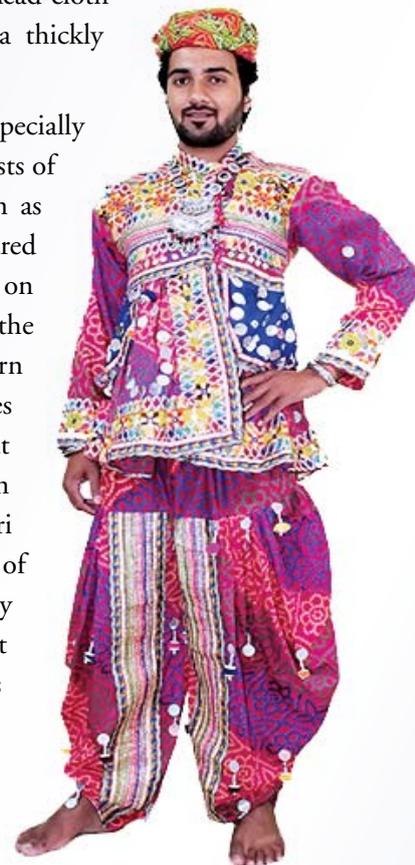
The main outfit which Gujarati males wear is Chorno & Kediya. The women wear Chaniyo & Choli. Both men and women wear lavish jewellery.

Chorno is a cotton dress mostly worn by men in the rural areas of the state. The short kediya or angrakhu is put over

the Chorno to cover the upper part of the body. Mostly we see that the men in the state wear a typical head gear or a turban. This head-cloth is known as phento and is a thickly folded/layered piece of cloth.

The women wear chaniyo, especially in rural areas. This dress consists of a petticoat and blouse known as choli. The petticoat is coloured and adorned with glass pieces on it. The choli consists of quite the same type of design or pattern which matches the glass pieces on petticoat. To give a decent and graceful finishing, women wear a chunri. This chunri drapes around the upper part of the body. A chunri is generally a coarse piece of cloth without any heavy work on it and it is very light in weight.

Doshi Darshan Vinodbhai,
Sales, Flowserve Sanmar,
Jamnagar.



Nauwari or Lugade

The people of Maharashtra are known for their different and colourful costumes.

Men wear Dhotar (Dhotar or dhoti is a piece of cotton garment tied around the waist and extending to cover most of the legs) with Kurta which is a famous costume throughout Maharashtra. They also put on a Bandi over their shirt (Bandi is a type of waistcoat or jacket). In addition to these, they wear a folded cap made of cotton. It can also be a freshly folded turban known as Pheta.

Women wear Nauwari or Lugade (saree) which is 9 yards in length and short sleeved choli (blouse). Its width is nearly 42-45 inches, having two lengthwise borders and Padar at one of the ends which is decorated. The Padar is worn over the head.

Kalpesh Bhagawat Patil, *GET, Pentair Sanmar, Pune.*



Phulkari

Phulkari is an embroidery technique from the Punjab region (divided between India and Pakistan), which literally means flower work. It was, at one time, used as the word for embroidery, but with time the word phulkari became restricted to embroidered shawls and headscarves. It is believed that phulkari came from Central Asia along with the Jatt tribes who migrated to India and settled in Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat. There is reference to phulkari in Vedas, Mahabharata, Guru Granth Sahib and folk songs of Punjab. In its present form, phulkari embroidery has been popular since the 15th century.

Simple and sparsely embroidered odini (head scarf), dupatta and shawls, made for everyday use, are called Phulkaris, whereas garments that cover the entire body, made for special and ceremonial occasions like weddings or birth of a son, with the fabric fully covered with work is called Baghs (“garden”) and fabrics with scattered work are called “Adha Bagh” (half garden). This whole work is done with white or yellow silk floss on cotton khaddar and starts from the centre on the fabric called “chashm-e-bulbul” and spreads to the whole fabric.

Embroidery is done with floss silk thread on coarse hand woven cotton fabric. Geometrical patterns are usually embroidered on the phulkaris. Women all over Punjab

during marriage festivals and other joyous occasions wear phulkaris and baghs. Usually, they were embroidered by the women for themselves and other family members. Thus, it was purely a domestic art, which not only satisfied their inner urge for creation but also brought colour into day-to-day life. In a way, it was true folk art. Custom evolved to giving phulkaris and baghs to brides at the time of marriages.

Harmander Singh Sucha Singh Sangha,
GET, BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd., Mumbai.



Different Clothes in India

Indian Clothing is known for its elegance and traditional wear all over the world. Festive season is the best way for exploring India and its culture, which is unique in every state of India. People of different communities wear different types of dresses in India which has become their identity.



Subjects originated in India



The Man Who Knew Infinity

Srinivasa Iyengar Ramanujan, an Indian mathematician was born on 22 December 1887. He made substantial contributions to mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions.

Ramanujan independently compiled nearly 3900 results, mostly identities and equations. It was in 1910, after a meeting with the founder of the Indian Mathematical Society, V Ramaswamy Aiyer, that Ramanujan started to get recognition within the mathematics circles of Madras, leading to his inclusion as a researcher at the University of Madras. When his skills became known to the wider community, he began a partnership with the English mathematician GH Hardy. The Cambridge professor realised that Srinivasa Ramanujan had produced new theorems in addition to rediscovering previously known ones.

Srinivasa Ramanujan and GH Hardy worked together for many years and no one can forget the story of number 1729. The number 1729 is known as the Hardy–

Ramanujan number after a famous visit by Hardy to see Ramanujan at a hospital.

In Hardy's words:

I remember once going to see him when he was ill at Putney. I had ridden in taxi cab number 1729 and remarked

that the number seemed to me rather a dull one, and that I hoped it was not an unfavourable omen. "No," he replied, "it is a very interesting number; it is the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways."

$$1729 = 1^3 + 12^3 = 9^3 + 10^3$$

Ramanujan was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree by research (this degree was later renamed Ph D) in March 1916 for his work on highly composite numbers, the first part of which was published as a paper in the Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society. On 13 October 1918, he was the first Indian to be elected a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Throughout his life, Ramanujan was plagued by health problems. His health worsened in England. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis. In 1919 he returned to Kumbakonam, Madras Presidency, and soon thereafter, in 1920, died at the age of 32.

Amrinder Singh, *Trainee, Flouserve Sanmar, Delhi.*

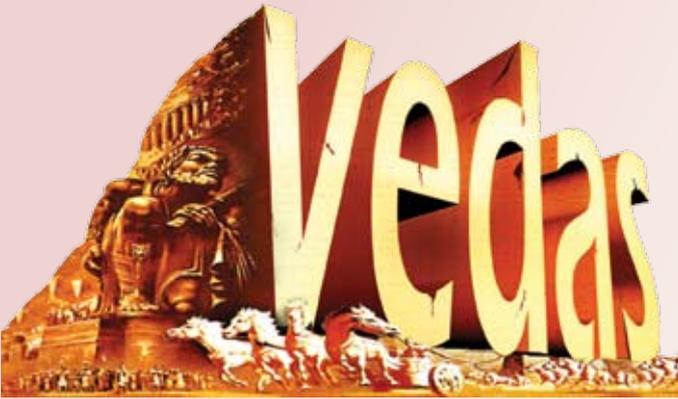
Aryabhata (476-550 AD), one of the world's greatest mathematician-astronomer, was born in Patliputra in Magadha, modern Patna in Bihar.

His greatest contribution is ZERO, for which he became immortal. He certainly did not use the symbol, but the French mathematician Georges Ifrah argues that knowledge of zero was implicit in Aryabhata's place-value system as a place holder for the powers of ten with null coefficients. This remarkable man was a genius and continues to baffle many mathematicians of today. His works was then later adopted by the Greeks and then the Arabs.



The Sangam of India with Philosophy

Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, values, reason and mind. An important contribution to philosophy has been made by India during its Medieval and Ancient Periods. The ancient Indian philosophy is a fusion of two ancient traditions: Sramana tradition and Vedic tradition.



Vedic philosophy

Indian philosophy begins with the Vedas where questions related to the laws of nature, the origin of the universe and the place of man in it are raised. In the Vedic view, creation is ascribed to the self-consciousness of the primeval being (Purusha). This leads to the inquiry into the one being that underlies the diversity of empirical phenomena and the origin of all things.

Cosmic order is termed as karma. Nature (prakriti) is taken to have three qualities (sattva, rajas, and tamas).

The corpus of Vedic Sanskrit texts includes the following:

The Samhitas (Sanskrit sa hit, "collection")

- *The Brahmanas (prose texts)*
- *The Aranyakas, (wilderness texts or forest treatises)*
- *Older Mukhya Upanishads (Bṛhadaranyaka, Chandogya, Katha, Kena, Aitareya, and others).*



Sramana philosophy

Sramana means "seeker, one who performs acts of austerity". Jainism and Buddhism are continuation of the Sramana school of thought. The Sramanas cultivated a pessimistic worldview of the samsara as full of suffering and advocated renunciation and austerities. They laid stress on philosophical concepts like Ahimsa, Karma, Jnana, Samsara and Moksa. The Sramanic traditions have a diverse range of beliefs, ranging from accepting or denying the concept of soul, fatalism to free will, idealisation of extreme asceticism to that of family life, wearing dress to complete nudity in daily social life, strict ahimsa (non-violence) and vegetarianism to permissibility of violence and meat-eating.

The Buddhist text Samannaphala Sutta identifies six pre-Buddhist Sramana schools, identifying them by their leader.

- *Sramana movement of Purana Kassapa*
- *Sramana movement of Makkhali Gosala (Ajivika)*
- *Sramana movement of Ajita Kesakambali*
- *Sramana movement of Pakudha Kaccayana*
- *Sramana movement of Nigantha Nataputta (Jainism)*
- *Sramana movement of Sanjaya Belatthiputta (Ajnana).*

Modern Philosophy

The early modern period saw the flourishing of Navya-Nyaya (the 'new reason') under philosophers such as Raghunatha Siromani (1460–1540) who founded the tradition, Jayarama Pancanana, Mahadeva Punatamakara and Yashovijaya (who formulated a Jain response). The modern era saw the rise of Hindu nationalism, Hindu reform movements and Hindu modernism whose major proponents included Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Aurobindo. They promoted the idea of a unified Hinduism.

The Beauty of Indian Philosophy as depicted by the famous Ancient India Poet Vyasa:

"Whence all creation had its origin,
he, whether he fashioned it or whether he did not,
he, who surveys it all from highest heaven,
he knows – or maybe even he does not know."

Bhavya Gupta, Sales, Flouserve Sanmar, Delhi.

Subjects that originated in India

A lot of practices and things that are prevalent today were invented or discovered in India. Some of them are listed below:

- Yoga has its origin in India and has existed for over 5000 years.
- Bruce Lee is what rings in your ears when you hear about Martial Arts. But you will be surprised to know that Martial Arts were first created and practised in India before they became popular in China and the rest of the world.



- Zero was invented independently by the Babylonians, Mayans and Indians (although some researchers say the Indian number system was influenced by the Babylonians).
- One will be delighted to know that the game of intellectuals, Chess was invented in India. The earlier name of the game was “ASHTAPADA”.
- Long before the European Mathematicians, Indian Mathematician Budhayana calculated the value of Pi. Budhayana was also credited with the discovery of Pythagorean Theorem. He explained the concept in the 6th century.
- It's a rare known fact that the time taken by Earth to orbit the Sun was first and rightly calculated by Bhaskaracharya hundreds of years ago before the European scientists could find according to Bhaskaracharya. The time to orbit the sun was 365.258756484 days.

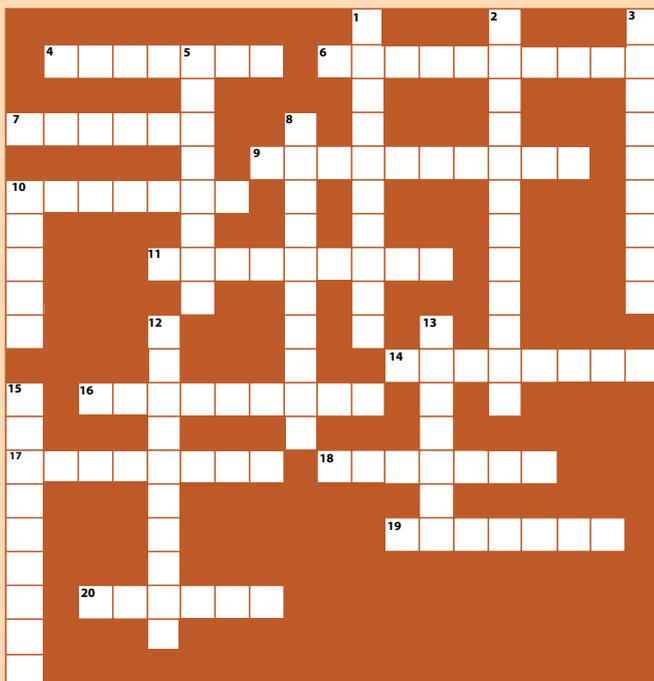


- The father of Medicine, Charaka, consolidated the study of Ayurveda 2500 years ago. Charaka is the main contributor to the science of Ayurveda, which is the earliest school of medicine known to mankind.
- Susruta practised and taught surgery on the banks of the river Ganges. He authored a book which had different volumes, collectively known as “Susrutha Samhita”. Susruta practised complicated surgeries like cataract, caesareans, urinary stones, plastic surgery and brain surgeries.
- The term Trigonometry was derived from Tri (Three) + Kona (Angle) + Miti (Parametre) in Sanskrit. Sine & Cosine were also found from ‘Jya & Koti-Jya’ of Sanskrit.
- Not many know that Quadratic Equations find its root in India. The formula of Quadratic Equations i.e; $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ was first given by Sridharacharya in the 10th century.

Somesh Sadhu, Sales, Flowserve Sanmar, Kolkata.



Crossword



Across

4. Site of world's highest golf course (7)
6. The French connection (10)
7. Pink City (6)
9. Le Corbusier's dream (10)
10. Trams are a common sight in this soccer-crazy city (7)
11. City where the famous Suraj Kund mela is organised (9)
14. Legendary Pragiyotishpur or 'City of Eastern Light' (8)
16. 'Kala Pani' of the British Raj (4,5)
17. 'Indraprastha' of Mahabharata (3,5)
18. Capital city by the beach (7)
19. City famous for Tansen's Tomb and 'Teli Ka Mandir' (7)
20. Store-house of India's minerals (6)

Down

1. Ajanta frescos (10)
2. Black Pagoda (12)
3. Quli Qutub Shah's 'Bhagyanagar' (9)
5. Witnesses the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy (8)
8. 'Karnavati' of the olden times (10)
10. First private-sector airport in the country is located here (5)
12. World famous tea grows here (10)
13. Ruled by Nawab Wajid Ali Shah (7)
15. India's answer to the Silicon Valley (9)

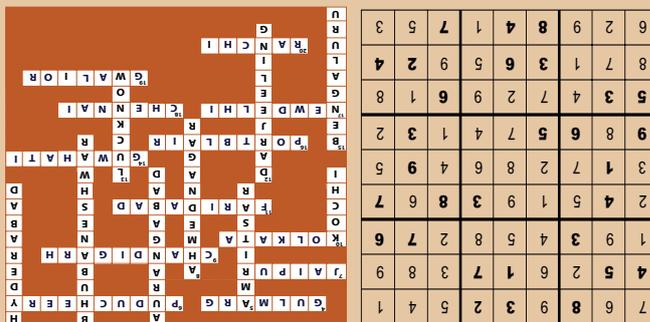
Sudoku

		8		3	2			
4	5			1	7			
		3					7	6
	4				3	8		7
	1						9	
9		6	5				3	
5	3					6		
			3	6			2	4
			8	4		7		

Guess Who?!



He is the great social and religious reformer, Raja Ram Mohan Roy. He was a visionary who lived during one of India's darkest social phases. He co-founded the Calcutta Unitarian Society and later founded Brahma Samaj. Roy fought against the practice of 'Sati' that required a widow to immolate herself at the pyre of her husband. He is also known as the Father of Modern India.



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