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-  The official name for India is Bharat (Hindi) or Republic of India (English). The name 'India' is derived from the River Indus, the valleys around which were the home of the early settlers
-  India is in southern Asia and borders Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, Nepal & Pakistan . To the north it is bordered by the world's highest mountain range – the Himalayas
-  The capital of India is New Delhi, and the country's largest cities are Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and Kolkata (formerly Calcutta)
-  India is 5.5 hours ahead of the UK
-  India is the 7th biggest country in the world. It covers 3,287,263 sq km
-  India has the world's 2nd biggest population of 1,166,079,217
-  The predominant religion in India is Hindu with 80.5% of the population followed by Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8% & unspecified 0.1%
-  The oldest European church and synagogue in India are in the city of Cochin. They were built in 1503 and 1568 respectively. Jews and Christians have lived continuously in India since 200 B.C. and 52 A.D. respectively
-  Hindi is the most widely spoken language and primary tongue of 41% of the people; there are 14 other official languages: Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Kashmiri, Sindhi, and Sanskrit; Hindustani is a popular variant of Hindi/Urdu spoken widely throughout northern India but is not an official language
-  India used to be part of the British Commonwealth but gained independence on 15 August 1947
-  The currency in India is the Indian Rupee you get approx. 80 Indian Rupees to £1
-  The number system was invented by India. Aryabhatta was the scientist who invented the digit zero
-  Chess was invented in India
-  The World's first university was established in Takshila in 700 BC. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects
-  Until 1896, India was the only source for diamonds to the world
-  India never invaded any country in her last 100000 years of history
-  The largest employer in the world is the Indian Railways, employing over a million people
-  The Vishnu Temple in the city of Tirupathi built in the 10th century, is the world's largest religious pilgrimage destination. Larger than either Rome or Mecca, an average of 30,000 visitors donate £3.5 million to the temple everyday
-  His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, runs his government in exile from Dharmashala in northern India
-  India's National Animal is the Tiger, National Flower the Lotus and National Tree the Banyan