

Chapter 1 : Art & Culture | National Portal of India

This iconography of everyday Indian life is the subject of the exhibition Indian Popular Culture.'The Conquest of the World as Picture' at the House of World Cultures from 19 September - 16 November.

Indian, Hindu, Bharati Orientation Identification. India constitutes the largest part of the subcontinental land mass of South Asia, an area it shares with six other countries, including Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. It has highly variable landforms, that range from torrid plains, tropical islands, and a parched desert to the highest mountain range in the world. India, on the southern subcontinent of Asia, is bounded on the northwest by Pakistan; on the north by China and Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan; on the northeast by Bangladesh and Burma Myanmar ; and on the southwest and southeast by the Indian Ocean, with the island republics of Sri Lanka and the Maldives to the south. Excluding small parts of the country that are currently occupied by Chinese or Pakistani military forces, the area of the Republic of India is 1, square miles 3,, square kilometers. The census enumerated ,, residents, including ,, women, and million people defined as urban dwellers. However, with a population growth rate estimated at 17 per one thousand in , by May the national figure reached one billion. Life expectancy in the census was sixty years, and in it was estimated that almost 5 percent of the population was age 65 or older. The population is still primarily rural, with 73 percent of the population in living outside the cities and towns. In , the largest urban centers were Bombay or Mumbai 12,, , Calcutta or Kolkata 11,, , Delhi 8,, , Madras or Chennai 5,, , Hyderabad 4,, , and Bangalore 4,, There are four major language families, each with numerous languages. Indo-Aryan, a branch of Indo-European, covers the northern half of the country, and the Dravidian family covers the southern third. In the middle regions a number of tribal languages of the Munda or Austroasiatic family are spoken. In the northeastern hills, numerous Tibeto-Burman languages are spoken. The national flag, which was adopted in , is a tricolor of deep saffron, white, and green, in horizontal bands with green at the bottom. In the center of the white band is a blue wheel, the chakra , which also appears on the lion column-capital of the Emperor Asoka at Sarnath. This carving, which is over 2, years old, is also a national emblem that is preserved in the Sarnath Museum. The sandstone carving features four lions back to back, separated by wheels chakra , the wheel of law , standing over a bell-shaped lotus. The whole carving once was surmounted by the wheel of law. The national anthem is a song composed by Rabindranath Tagore in entitled Jana-gana mana. The nearly useless Saka-era calendar also may be considered a national symbol, adopted in and still often used officially alongside the Gregorian calendar. History and Ethnic Relations Emergence of the Nation. India has a history going back thousands of years and a prehistory going back hundreds of thousands of years. There was a long phase of Paleolithic hunting and gathering cultures parallel in time and characteristics with the Paleolithic peoples of Europe and East Asia. This was followed, eight thousand to ten thousand years ago, by the development of settled agricultural communities in some areas. In , the first genuinely urban civilization in the Indus Valley and western India India emerged. After its disappearance around B. Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism, and Sikhism. Despite the extent of the Empire of Asoka " B. India was ruled by the British government after through a viceroy and a council, although several hundred "princely states" continued to maintain a measure of independence. The Indian National Congress, founded in , slowly moved from a position of advisor and critic for the British administration toward demanding the transference of power to native Indian politicians. In , the Indian National Congress, led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, adopted a policy of civil disobedience with a view to achieving full national independence. It was to be a long struggle, but independence was achieved in , with the condition that predominantly Muslim areas in the north would form a separate country of Pakistan. The departure of the colonial authorities, including the British armed forces, was peaceful, but the splitting off of Pakistan caused a massive population movement and bloodshed on both sides as a result of "communal passions. National identity is not a major political issue; regional identity and the mother tongue seem to be more important. There are still millions of illiterate people who seem hardly aware that they are Indians but can be vociferous in their support of chauvinistic regional politicians. Thus, India has been plagued with secessionist struggles since independence, the most prominent of which have been a Dravidian movement in

the south, an armed struggle among Kashmiri Muslims for a union of their state with Pakistan, a Khalistan movement among Panjabi Sikhs, and a guerilla movement seeking independence for all the Naga tribes in the northeast. India is home to several thousand ethnic groups, tribes, castes, and religions. The castes and subcastes in each region relate to each other through a permanent hierarchical structure, with each caste having its own name, traditional occupation, rank, and distinctive subculture. Tribes usually do not have a caste hierarchy but often have their own internal hierarchical organization. The pastoral and foraging tribes are relatively egalitarian in their internal organization. India is no stranger to ethnic conflict, especially religious wars. Nevertheless, in most parts of the Indian shop workers in the main bazaar in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The walled citadels in some early cities developed into elaborate palisades, walls, and moats to protect the multitude of Iron Age and medieval cities throughout much of the country. The towns and cities are of eight historic types: Architecture developed distinct regional styles that remain apparent. These styles reflect the relative influence of the medieval Tamil kingdoms, Persian and Turkic invaders in the north, Portuguese and British Christianity, and all the distinctive features of the religious monuments of Jainism, Buddhism, Islam, and medieval Hinduism. The landscape is dotted with over half a million villages, and each region has distinctive forms of domestic architecture and village layout. Holy places of the various religions are commonly within villages and towns, but the numerous pilgrimage sites are not necessarily located there.

Food and Economy Food in Daily Life. About half the people eat rice as their staple, while the remainder subsist on wheat, barley, maize, and millet. There are thus major geographic differences in diet. Just as fundamental is the division between those who eat meat and those who are vegetarian. Muslims, Jews, Sikhs, and Christians all eat meat, with the important proviso that the first three groups do not consume pork. Lower-caste Hindus eat any meat except beef, whereas members of the higher castes and all Jains are normally vegetarian, with most even avoiding eggs.

Food Customs at Ceremonial Occasions. Every caste, tribe, town, village, and religion has a panoply of traditional ceremonies that are observed with enthusiasm and wide participation. Most of these ceremonies have a religious basis, and the majority are linked with the deities of Hinduism. With a large proportion of the population being located in rural areas 73 percent, farming is the largest source of employment; for hundreds of millions of people, this means subsistence farming on tiny plots of land, whether owned or rented. In most parts of the country, some farmers produce cash crops for sale in urban markets, and in some areas, plantation crops such as tea, coffee, cardamom, and rubber are of great economic importance because they bring in foreign money. In that period, the average annual inflation was 9 percent. In , national debt was 27 percent of GDP. Over the past half century the economy has been expanding slowly but at a steady rate on the basis of a wide range of industries, including mining operations. Major cities such as Bombay are considered residential creations of British administrators. The United States has been the principal export market in recent years, receiving 17 percent of exports in and Clothing, tea, and computer software are three major categories of exports to the United States.

Land Tenure and Property. In an economy based on agriculture, the ownership of land is the key to survival and power. In most parts of the country, the majority of the acreage is owned by a politically dominant caste that is likely to be a middle-ranking one, not a Brahmin one. However, the various regions still have different traditions of land tenure and associated systems of land taxation. India has only recently seen the last of the rural serfs who for centuries supplied much of the basic farm labor in some parts of the country. There are still numberless landless wage laborers, tenant farmers, and landlords who rent out their extensive lands, and rich peasants who work their own holdings. India has had many traders, transport agents, importers, and exporters since the days of the Indus civilization four thousand years ago. Market places have existed since that time, and coinage has been in circulation among urban people for years. In modern times, an expanding investment scene, combined with continuing inflation, has formed the background to an extensive import and export trade. The major industries continue to be tourism, clothing, tea, coffee, cotton, and the production of raw materials; in the last few years, there has been a surge in the importance of the computer software industry. The modern infrastructure was created by the British administration in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The country still relies on a vast network of railroad track, some of it electrified. Railroads are a government monopoly. Roadways, many of them unsurfaced, total about 1. The first air service, for postal delivery, grew

into Air India which, along with Indian Airlines, the internal system, was nationalized in 1952. In the 1960s a number of private airlines developed within the country, while international connections are provided by a multitude of foreign companies as well as Air India. Political animosities have long ensured that trade with neighboring South Asian countries remains minimal, although there is now considerable transborder trade with Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Bhutan. The division of work is based on gender. Age also separates out the very old and the very young as people unable to perform the heaviest tasks. Those jobs are done by millions of adult men and women who have nothing to offer but their muscles. Beyond these fundamental divisions, India is unique in having the caste system as the ancient and most basic principle of organization of the society. Each of many hundreds of castes traditionally had one occupation that was its specialty and usually its local monopoly. Social Stratification Classes and Castes. The caste system is more elaborate than that in any of the other Hindu or Buddhist countries. Society is so fragmented into castes that there can be twenty or thirty distinct castes within a village. This society has a hierarchy of endogamous, birth-ascribed groups, each of which traditionally is a family at the Taj Mahal, one of the most famous buildings in the world. Because an individual cannot change his or her caste affiliation, every family belongs in its entirety and forever to only one named caste, and so each caste has developed a distinctive subculture that is handed down from generation to generation. Hindu religious theory justifies the division of society into castes, with the unavoidable differences in status and the differential access to power each one has. Hindus usually believe that a soul can have multiple reincarnations and that after the death of the body a soul will be reassigned to another newborn human body or even to an animal one. This reassignment could be to one of a higher caste if the person did good deeds in the previous life or to a lower-status body if the person did bad deeds. The highest category of castes are those people called Brahmins in the Hindu system; they were traditionally priests and intellectuals. Below them in rank were castes called Ksatriya, including especially warriors and rulers. Third in rank were the Vaisyas, castes concerned with trading and land ownership.

Chapter 2 : Hindu Customs and Traditions | Hinduism Facts | Facts about Hindu Religion

The culture of India refers collectively to the thousands of distinct and unique cultures of all religions and communities present in India. India's languages, religions, dance, music, architecture, food, and customs differ from place to place within the country.

In his essay, entitled *The Noble Savage*, [1] Dickens expressed repugnance for Indians and their way of life, recommending that they ought to be "civilized out of existence". In reality, Dickens maintained, Indians were dirty, cruel, and constantly fighting among themselves. Because the white people viewed this land as an object, they forced the Natives out of their land so they could industrialize, etc. Thousands of Native Americans lives were lost during this process. Eastern European-produced Westerns were popular in Communist Eastern European countries, and were a particular favorite of Joseph Stalin. European works frequently featured Romani or Turkic people in the role of the Indians, due to the shortage of authentic Indians in Eastern Europe. The so-called Legend of the Rainbow Warriors , an alleged Hopi prophecy foretelling environmental activism, [5] became popular, with most proponents unaware that the story is fakelore , written as part of an evangelical Christian tract, and an attempt to destroy traditional Native religions. Film[edit] In films such as *Northwest Passage* , Native Americans are the villains, attacking White settlers, often at the instigation of unscrupulous White men. But there are many Hollywood films that offer a more sympathetic picture. Their hands and fingers must be tragic when they reach for tragic food. Natives are portrayed with tragic features because it resembles their tragic history. He should often weep alone. Males are depicted as being the strong warriors. Males are also often depicted as wearing headdresses in popular culture. She must be slender and in love with a white man". In popular culture women are depicted in a sexualized form. Women are depicted as not portraying strength. However, Native American women are very strong. They picked berries and looked after the kids. However, Native Americans are humorous and have a completely different side to them than most people think. Native Americans can be serious and warriors but they can also be humorous and comforting. Native Americans actually use humor to joke about their brutal history. It is their way of coping. The fact that they are willing to allow humor to joke around about their past and the killing of thousands of Native Americans proves that they are not savages. Instead, they are casual everyday people

Video games[edit] An Apache warrior named Nightwolf debuted in the video game *Mortal Kombat 3* and has been a recurring protagonist of the franchise. He is one of the few mortals who are spiritually aware, acting as a historian and shaman of his people. In *Prey* , the protagonist, Tommy, is a mechanic of Cherokee heritage, who is sick of life on the reservation and resents his heritage. In the beginning of the game, after a bar fight, the building is lifted up by a hostile alien ship, and he and his family are abducted. As the game progresses, he must fight to escape. In *American Conquest* , you can play with various native tribes and empires during the colonisation of the Americas by Europeans. *Second Son* , the protagonist Delsin Rowe and his brother Reggie are members of a fictional Native American tribe called the Akomish. *Rogue* , an Abenaki Assassin named Kesegowaase is a minor antagonist, the protagonist Shay Cormac also encounters members of the Oneida tribe.

Chapter 3 : India - Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette

Here is an overview of Indian customs and traditions. Indian Culture: Traditions and Customs of India India is one of the world's oldest and most diverse cultures.

While simple societies may have only a single integrated culture that is shared by everyone, complex societies can accommodate many layers and levels of cultures and subcultures. Popular culture, also called the Mass culture is far more widespread, is accessible to everyone and its main purpose is entertainment. The famous Indian bollywood actors Raj Kapoor confronting urban duplicity in *Shree A* bollywood movie and Salman Khan returning home to Bombay from America in *Maine pyaar kiya* A bollywood movie are bearers of a majority of liminality which seem to be central to popular cultural discourse. Popular culture came to signify a broad non-elite focus: It is important to acknowledge that there are large sections of Indian society which do not readily participate in the public culture. The community of sentiment that emerges out of public culture is the consequence of pre-dominance of electronic mass media. Public culture occupies a new social space, partially created by specific forms of media. Films, television, and video technologies are all at the heart of new cosmopolitanism containing models of celebrity and consumption that are pivotal to new public culture. One crucial difference between public and pivotal culture is that the former presupposes processes of globalization within which the local operates. In an Indian context, although anthropologists had for long been studying non-elite culture. Where non-local culture was involved, it was a learned sanskritic culture of religious texts. Indian public culture is only intermittently opposed to an authorized cultural discourse. It is not characterized at every turn by its fundamental and ontological alterity, and the authorized discourse which very occasionally disparages it, although might be termed elite, hardly dominant. It is a discourse authorized in large part by state agenda but it has less authority and even few adherents. The journey from the village to the city is one of the ways in which diverse class and cultural experiences are overlapped in popular culture. The city operates as a space of experimentation and critique. In placing the radically different societies side by side, one is immediately struck by the fact that the Indian public culture described has more in common with early European elite culture than popular culture, that is, all that was excluded from the high learned culture. The media also plays a culturally important role as it supplies, enhances and enhances many of the idioms, gestures through which social and political structures are reanimated at the start of each new day. Buck Mors archaeology of Aesthetics is particularly useful for our understanding of public culture in India. In villages and towns it is a popular visual and peculiar culture which is still experimenting a framework established in the late 19th century and early 20 the century which is most visible. Pleasure remains fundamental to popular film but it rarely erupts out of the project of nation-state. The sense of a state which is not adequate to the needs of its nation is recurrent in recent Indian public culture. In this case, particularly from the Indian vantage point, the key forces that have eroded the Victorian moral and didactic framework of cricket are indigenization of patronage, both in the sense of finding indigenous patrons whose styles can accommodate the form and finding audiences who can be drawn in to the spectacle. In the Indian case, the cultural aspects of decolonization deeply affect every domain of public life, from language and arts to ideas about political presentations and economic justice. Elements which are not indigenous are also a part of the popular culture. Cricket was played by the British officers in colonial times. The Indians who played cricket with the British were the elite Indians. Cricket in those days was not a part of the popular culture. After the country gained independence, the demographic profile of the people who played cricket, altered. People coming from small towns started playing cricket. The background of the game cricket got diversified and globalized. In terms of playing nations, many nations joined the game. The game became crisper. Cricket now is truly Indianized. It links together the idea of nation, adds to the pleasure of the game, arouses bodily excitement and thrills, and the nationalist sentiments and emotions. Presently, cricket is a very important aspect pf popular culture. To conclude, it can be said that Indian public culture is a zone of cultural debate, rather than an arena of consensus and agreement, a zone where consumers appear to share in a common language of cultural agency.

Chapter 4 : Pop culture - GQ India

Latest pop culture, entertainment news, celebrity photos and breaking news on TV, music and movies at GQ India. Know the pop culture trends and also about music and fashion culture in India.

Pop culture finds its expression in the mass circulation of items from the different spheres of life such as fashion, music or sports. But music is the main conveyor of present day pop culture with pop bands and pop artists enjoying iconic status. If you freak out on pop songs this is where you can take on a virtual tour of the pop cultural arena of India. Pop culture is relatively new in India and is mainly a western import but presently it has become a part and parcel of the life style of Indian youth. Pop culture is the in-thing among the Generation Y and it forms and invincible part of their lifestyle. Indian pop music scenario has grown manifold in the recent years where its fan following among Indian youth has increased by leaps and bounds. If you are a pop music buff you can update yourself about the history and origin on Indian pop. The foot tapping music has not only permeated in India but among non resident Indians residing in the other parts of the world too. Log onto this site and get introduced to the top notch pop artists of India and their mellifluous music. This site also provides you with a forum of discussion on pop music. There are also huge repertoires of Disk Jockeys and musicians who can be contacted through this site. Get some hauntingly romantic lyrics of some popular songs. Enrich your collection of pop songs with this site. This site gives you a wide and extensive range of pop songs which you can listen online and also download. The site also brings you a range of cool mobile tunes from latest pop chartbusters. So take your fill of Indian pop songs from this site. It is relatively a new genre and has mainly flourished with the back up of popular Indian music channels, like Channel V and MTV. Indian pop tough mainly written in vernacular but they often emulate the fast paced tunes from English pop songs. Daler Mehendi, Rageswari, Alisha Chinoy are few of the most popular name in the Indian pop music scenario. But the youth living in the cities of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are not totally impervious to the appeal of Indian pop culture. In a bid to promote pop culture and popularize pop music in these two southern states the music company Saregama has organized a state wide talent hunt in collaboration with music maestro A. This article bears a testimony of the fact that how music channels and music companies have aided and contributed to the spread of popular culture in India. He was the first Indian to represent India at an international pop song competition. This site gives a host of information on the various musical achievements of Remo Fernandes. It also delineates some recent sample of his upcoming music albums and some press releases about him. You can also send your feedback to this website. This site sings a paeon of this great pop artist. It provides you with myriads of details on him and his accomplishments. It also delineates a list of his most popular char buster pop songs which has swayed millions of Indian with their catchy tunes and racy melody. Falguni Pathak till date was known as the Duchess of Dandiya music but now she aims at being a pop princess too and this article throws light on her attempts. This site describes a book written by an Indian born academic at the University of San Fransisco. It tries to point out the unsavory fact that Indian pop music channels have used Indian culture to sully the very ethos and values it represents. This article will force you to take a deep look at the long term effect of this superficial pop culture on Indian youth. Kathak maestro Birju Maharaj is considered as one of the undisputed emperor of Kathak, a classical dance form. The fusion of classical tunes or dances with pop music of popular dancing steps has violated the sanctity and basic character of these classical art forms. This page will help you to skip through the history, evolution and the present state of pop culture in India. If you still need more information on any other topic please visit www.gqindia.com. Please contact for further details.

Chapter 5 : Culture of India - Find all about Indian Culture

Pop Culture India! Media, Arts, and Lifestyle follows the rise of modern India's pop culture world, especially since the s, when relaxed censorship and economic liberalization led to an explosion in movies, music, mass media, consumerism, spiritual practices, and more.

See Article History Alternative Titles: It is known from archaeological evidence that a highly sophisticated urbanized culture—the Indus civilization—dominated the northwestern part of the subcontinent from about 2500 to 1750 bce. From that period on, India functioned as a virtually self-contained political and cultural arena, which gave rise to a distinctive tradition that was associated primarily with Hinduism, the roots of which can largely be traced to the Indus civilization. Other religions, notably Buddhism and Jainism, originated in India—though their presence there is now quite small—and throughout the centuries residents of the subcontinent developed a rich intellectual life in such fields as mathematics, astronomy, architecture, literature, music, and the fine arts. Throughout its history, India was intermittently disturbed by incursions from beyond its northern mountain wall. Especially important was the coming of Islam, brought from the northwest by Arab, Turkish, Persian, and other raiders beginning early in the 8th century ce. Eventually, some of those raiders stayed; by the 13th century much of the subcontinent was under Muslim rule, and the number of Muslims steadily increased. Only after the arrival of the Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama in 1498 and the subsequent establishment of European maritime supremacy in the region did India become exposed to major external influences arriving by sea, a process that culminated in the decline of the ruling Muslim elite and absorption of the subcontinent within the British Empire. When British rule came to an end in 1947, the subcontinent was partitioned along religious lines into two separate countries—India, with a majority of Hindus, and Pakistan, with a majority of Muslims; the eastern portion of Pakistan later split off to form Bangladesh. Many British institutions stayed in place such as the parliamentary system of government; English continued to be a widely used lingua franca; and India remained within the Commonwealth. Hindi became the official language and a number of other local languages achieved official status, while a vibrant English-language intelligentsia thrived. India remains one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. Apart from its many religions and sects, India is home to innumerable castes and tribes, as well as to more than a dozen major and hundreds of minor linguistic groups from several language families unrelated to one another. Religious minorities, including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains, still account for a significant proportion of the population; collectively, their numbers exceed the populations of all countries except China. Earnest attempts have been made to instill a spirit of nationhood in so varied a population, but tensions between neighbouring groups have remained and at times have resulted in outbreaks of violence. At independence, India was blessed with several leaders of world stature, most notably Mohandas Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, who were able to galvanize the masses at home and bring prestige to India abroad. The country has played an increasing role in global affairs. It is bounded to the northwest by Pakistan, to the north by Nepal, China, and Bhutan; and to the east by Myanmar Burma. Bangladesh to the east is surrounded by India to the north, east, and west. The island country of Sri Lanka is situated some 40 miles 65 km off the southeast coast of India across the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar. In area, India ranks as the seventh largest country in the world. India has two union territories composed entirely of islands: When the two finally collided approximately 50 million years ago, the northern edge of the Indian-Australian Plate was thrust under the Eurasian Plate at a low angle. The collision reduced the speed of the oncoming plate, but the underthrusting, or subduction, of the plate has continued into contemporary times. The effects of the collision and continued subduction are numerous and extremely complicated. An important consequence, however, was the slicing off of crustal rock from the top of the underthrusting plate. Those slices were thrown back onto the northern edge of the Indian landmass and came to form much of the Himalayan mountain system. The new mountains—together with vast amounts of sediment eroded from them—were so heavy that the Indian-Australian Plate just south of the range was forced downward, creating a zone of crustal subsidence. Continued rapid erosion of the Himalayas added to the sediment accumulation, which was subsequently

carried by mountain streams to fill the subsidence zone and cause it to sink more. Further information on the geology of India is found in the article Asia. That great, geologically young mountain arc is about 1, miles 2, km long, stretching from the peak of Nanga Parbat 26, feet [8, metres] in the Pakistani-administered portion of the Kashmir region to the Namcha Barwa peak in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Between those extremes the mountains fall across India, southern Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan. The width of the system varies between and miles and km. North of the Himalayas are the Plateau of Tibet and various Trans-Himalayan ranges, only a small part of which, in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir state in the Indian-administered portion of Kashmir, are within the territorial limits of India. Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India: Gerald Cubitt Because of the continued subduction of the Indian peninsula against the Eurasian Plate, the Himalayas and the associated eastern ranges remain tectonically active. As a result, the mountains are still rising, and earthquakes "often accompanied by landslides" are common. Several have been devastating, including one in what is now Bihar state that killed more than 10, people. In another tremor the Bhuj earthquake, farther from the mountains, in Gujarat state, was less powerful but caused extensive damage, taking the lives of more than 20, people and leaving more than, homeless. Still others "notably the quake in Pakistani-administered Kashmir and the temblor in Nepal" principally affected those regions but also caused widespread damage and hundreds of deaths in adjacent parts of India. The relatively high frequency and wide distribution of earthquakes likewise have generated controversies about the safety and advisability of several hydroelectric and irrigation projects. Crests in the Siwaliks, averaging from 3, to 5, feet to 1, metres in elevation, seldom exceed 6, feet 2, metres. The range narrows as it moves east and is hardly discernible beyond the Duars, a plains region in West Bengal state. Interspersed in the Siwaliks are heavily cultivated flat valleys duns with a high population density. To the south of the range is the Indo-Gangetic Plain. Weakly indurated, largely deforested, and subject to heavy rain and intense erosion, the Siwaliks provide much of the sediment transported onto the plain. The Lesser Himalayas To the north of the Siwaliks and separated from them by a fault zone, the Lesser Himalayas also called the Lower or Middle Himalayas rise to heights ranging from 11, to 15, feet 3, to 4, metres. Their ancient name is Himachal Sanskrit: The mountains are composed of both ancient crystalline and geologically young rocks, sometimes in a reversed stratigraphic sequence because of thrust faulting. The Lesser Himalayas are traversed by numerous deep gorges formed by swift-flowing streams some of them older than the mountains themselves, which are fed by glaciers and snowfields to the north. The Great Himalayas The northernmost Great, or Higher, Himalayas in ancient times, the Himadri, with crests generally above 16, feet 4, metres in elevation, are composed of ancient crystalline rocks and old marine sedimentary formations. Between the Great and Lesser Himalayas are several fertile longitudinal vales; in India the largest is the Vale of Kashmir, an ancient lake basin with an area of about 1, square miles 4, square km. Other high mountains in India include Nanda Devi 25, feet [7, metres], Kamet 25, feet [7, metres], and Trisul 23, feet [7,] in Uttarakhand. The Great Himalayas lie mostly above the line of perpetual snow and thus contain most of the Himalayan glaciers. Those are especially prominent in the northwest, where the Zaskar Range and the Ladakh and Karakoram ranges all in Jammu and Kashmir state run to the northeast of the Great Himalayas. Also in Jammu and Kashmir is the Pir Panjal Range, which, extending along the southwest of the Great Himalayas, forms the western and southern flanks of the Vale of Kashmir. Barren mountains of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, India. Collectively, the latter group is also designated as the Shillong Meghalaya Plateau. The plain occupies the Himalayan foredeep, formerly a seabed but now filled with river-borne alluvium to depths of up to 6, feet 1, metres. The plain stretches from the Pakistani provinces of Sindh and Punjab in the west, where it is watered by the Indus River and its tributaries, eastward to the Brahmaputra River valley in Assam state. Morning prayers along the Ganges River, Varanasi, India. The eastern portion is made up of the combined delta of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, which, though mainly in Bangladesh, also occupies a part of the adjacent Indian state of West Bengal. That deltaic area is characterized by annual flooding attributed to intense monsoon rainfall, an exceedingly gentle gradient, and an enormous discharge that the alluvium-choked rivers cannot contain within their channels. The Indus River basin, extending west from Delhi, forms the western part of the plain; the Indian portion is mainly in the states of Haryana and Punjab. The overall gradient of the plain is virtually

imperceptible, averaging only about 6 inches per mile 95 mm per km in the Ganges basin and slightly more along the Indus and Brahmaputra. Even so, to those who till its soils, there is an important distinction between bhangar –the slightly elevated, terraced land of older alluvium– and khadar , the more fertile fresh alluvium on the low-lying floodplain. In general, the ratio of bhangar areas to those of khadar increases upstream along all major rivers. An exception to the largely monotonous relief is encountered in the southwestern portion of the plain, where there are gullied badlands centring on the Chambal River. That area has long been famous for harbouring violent gangs of criminals called dacoits, who find shelter in its many hidden ravines. It is mostly in northwestern India but also extends into eastern Pakistan and is mainly an area of gently undulating terrain, and within it are several areas dominated by shifting sand dunes and numerous isolated hills. The latter provide visible evidence of the fact that the thin surface deposits of the region, partially alluvial and partially wind-borne, are underlain by the much older Indian-Australian Plate, of which the hills are structurally a part.

Pop culture is relatively new in India and is mainly a western import but presently it has become a part and parcel of the life style of Indian youth. Indian pop or "Indi-pop" music, as it is more popularly known, has tremendous appeal among today's youth who try to emulate the hairstyles to fashion statement of artists.

All efforts have been made to make this image accurate. However Compare Infobase Limited and its directors do not own any responsibility for the correctness or authenticity of the same. Indian Culture "Unity in diversity" - these are not just words, but something that are highly applicable to a country like India that is incredibly rich in culture and heritage. A few quotations or statements cannot describe the pedestal that India holds on to the world map because of its colourful and unique culture. From the times of Mauryas, Cholas and Mughals to the period of British Empire, India has always been famous for its traditions and hospitality. The warmth in the relations and euphoria in celebrations make the country stand out distinctively in the global fraternity. We veil ourselves with unnatural masks. The country itself has been a living example of tolerance, cooperation and non-violence over so many centuries and continues to do so even today. Some of its various hues can be found in its different ideologies: India is one country in the world that has the distinction of being tolerant and not resorting to arms and ammunition in the first place. Swami Vivekananda also aptly enunciated this fact in his speech delivered at Chicago on 11 September , "the most ancient order of monks in the world, the Vedic order of sannyasins, a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance India has also been at the forefront of being a secular country. Freedom of worship and practice of religion is the manifestation of harmonious existence of diverse cultures in India. No religion is looked down upon or uplifted either. Cultural and Social Bond: In spite of having suffered oppression from different foreign conquerors at different periods of history, its culture and oneness has not taken a beating and continued to remain intact. Indian Culture - Traditional yet Contemporary Culture plays a pivotal role in the development of any country. A culture of a nation represents its values, goals, practices and shared beliefs. It timely imbibes the qualities of various other cultures and comes out as a contemporary and acceptable tradition. That is what is unique about the Indian culture, it moves on with the time. There are certain things about India that are famous worldwide, like: Ways of Greeting India is a land with varied greeting customs. Different religions here have different ways to express their greetings to others. For instance, in major Hindu families "Namaste" is the most common way of greeting the outsiders and elders. Both palms placed together and raised below the face not only show the respect for others but also makes the greeter feel the affection in return. Similarly, Muslims greet by saying "Adab", which involves raising of right hand towards the face in such a manner that the palm is inwards and is in front of the eyes with the finger tips almost touching the forehead. Flower Garlands Indian people are also famous for welcoming with flower garlands. In Indian marriages, the exchange of garlands between the bride and the groom is a ritual in itself. People also offer flower garlands to Gods and Goddesses during their prayers. Indian Marriages Time has changed but the lavishness has always been an integral and indispensable part of Indian marriages. In India, marriage is still taken as an institution where not two people but two families get united. So, it always calls for boisterous celebrations full of music and dance. Within India, every caste and community has its own way of performing the rituals of marriage. But most common of all is the ritual of Hast Milap ceremony popularly called Paanigrahan Sanskaar. Muslims also have their own special way of celebrating the marriage ceremony, popularly called Nikaah. Parsis plant a young mango tree in a pot during the marriage ceremony. Every state has its own special way of celebrating the marriage ceremony. Indian Dresses Beauty of Indian woman lies in the clothes she wears. Very traditional and ethnic yet contemporary Indian saris are famous worldwide. It is worn with a blouse that covers the upper part of the body. In rural parts, an outfit called ghagara-choli is very much popular. Choli is like a short blouse that covers the upper part of the body and ghagara is like a long skirt. In order to have a graceful and complete look, women folk carry a duppatta that is a soft and delicate material of reasonable length thrown over the shoulder. Though with slight variations, salwar kameez is a dress that is famous in every part of India. This attire contains two pieces - kameez, which is like a long top covering upper part of the body, and salwar is like

trousers. Like ghagara choli, salwar kameez is also complemented by a dupatta. For men, there is no dearth of variety. From dhoti kurta to shirt pants, an Indian man prefers everything that fits well and looks good. But, traditionally you can see north Indians wearing kurta pajama, dhoti kurta or sherwani on formal celebrations whereas south Indian men prefer lungi with shirt. Indian Jewellery Wearing jewellery has a long tradition in India. No doubt it reflects in the fact that jewellery is purchased in India not only for personal use but also for gifting purposes on many auspicious occasions. Besides, it is also passed from generation to generation in the Indian society, thus exemplifying the importance and uniqueness of Indian jewellery in Indian culture. The unique designs, artistic looks and creativeness of Indian jewellery make it represent the culture and tradition of India. In rural India, a resinous incrustation called lac is used for the personal ornamentation. Specialty of Gujarat and Rajasthan, the lac bangles and bracelets are worn and liked by the women of all states. Jewellery is an important accessory for every Indian woman. From earrings, nose-rings, armllets, necklaces to anklets and bracelets, Indian jewellery give a woman everything that she needs to enhance her beauty. Mehndi In Indian marriages, especially in the north, a special night is celebrated before the day of marriage in which mehndi or henna-a kind of paste-is designed on the palms of bridegroom and is followed by some colourful dance and music. It is also designed on the palms of women on some special occasions like their engagement and marriage. The paste is applied for a few hours or overnight and washed when it gets dried completely. This gives reddish-brown colour to the palms. In certain parts of India, mehndi is a special kind of ancient folk art as well. India is a secular state and every citizen enjoys an equal right of choosing and following a particular religion. More than three fourth of Indian population belongs to Hindu religion and you can find Hindu pilgrimages in every part of the country. In Northern part of India, you can visit various sacred religious places like Vaishno Devi, Amarnath, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Haridwar and Varanasi and in the Southern part of the country you can take the blessings of God at the Sabrimala, Sringeri, Dakshineswar-belur math, and Rameshwaram. If you are in the Northeast, you can go to the Kamrup temple that is located on the outskirts of Guwahati on the Nilachal hills. If you are roaming somewhere around Gujarat and interested in knowing about Lord Krishna, then you must visit Dwarkanath temple that is built at the site where Meera Bai gave up the world. You can also visit Somnath temple that comprises one of the twelve jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. In Northeast, there is Poa Mecca. It is believed that here a faithful Muslim can gain one fourth of the spiritual enlightenment that could be gained at Mecca. Hemkund Sahib, which is situated at an altitude of meters, is the highest Gurudwara in the world. The tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, mediated here for years in the mountains and ultimately left his body here to get united with the Almighty. Another pilgrimage of Sikhs is Manikaran Gurudwara that is situated in Himachal Pradesh and is famous for its hot springs. It is believed that these springs carry uranium and other radioactive materials. In India, you can also find a number of churches in every state. Northern India also has famous churches like St. In spite of presence of so much diversity in practice of religion, people still stay united here. It is just the Indian values that bind people together. In this people offer water to the sun and chant mantras and prayers. Indians worship nature and this is unique about its culture. In Hindu religion, trees and animals are worshipped like Gods. Nowhere in the world can one come across such generosity. All the religions here start the day with morning hymns, and these rich values are inculcated into the kids since childhood. Morning prayers and moral education is also a very important part of the education system in India. Here people are not judged by caste, colour or creed but by their values and this is what makes India a unique place to live. Everything is Artistic here! The great variety in performing and visual arts could not be found anywhere else in the world except for India. From a roadside show to a highly sophisticated drama in the theatre, you can find anything and everything here. Indian art can be categorised into two main forms- performing arts and visual arts. Performing Arts Dance, drama, theatre or music, every art is unique in itself. In India, religions, mythology and classical literature form the basis of most of the performing arts: Dance Indian classical dances like Bharatnatyam, Kathakali, Kathak, Manipuri, Odissi and Kuchipudi mainly follow the codes of natya shastra, mythology and classical literature and epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. Theatre Another kind of performing art is theatre. Though the folk theatre prevails in each and every language and region, the professional theatre is popular only in big urban areas or metropolitan cities. Puppet shows were a unique form of Indian theatre. For centuries, puppet shows have been

popular in creating awareness about social issues in masses and inculcating the moral values of truth and honesty in the kids. Music For Indians, music is to soul what food is to body. Since Vedic period, it has been capturing the heart and mind of every Indian. The Indian villages also have their special kind of music that carries colours of folk tradition.

Chapter 7 : Best Sites For Pop Culture

the indian popular culture July 17, Ruchika Anthropologists have always been concerned with culture which includes all the knowledge, technologies, beliefs, values and behavior common to people.

Human civilization is incomplete without them. As Hinduism is the oldest religion on the earth, there are a lot of Hindu customs and traditions observed in India. Some customs are so important for the people that sometimes, they sacrifice their lives for them. Mainly, people living in villages in India are very conscious regarding these. It does not mean that people living in the cities do not observe them but they are not as staunch as the people in villages are. There are literally thousands of customs and traditions in Hinduism. They vary from region to region and caste to caste. Many of them are common in all parts of India. We would try to list down each and every Hindu custom and tradition here. Before the start of any good work and social and religious ceremonies, Hindus worship Lord Ganesha and chant mantra: Hindus do not wear footwear inside homes, temples, and other holy places. They apply a spot or standing line of kumkum between the eyebrows on the forehead at the time of worship. They do not eat nonvegetarian food on Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Chaturthis, Ekadashis, and many other festival days. Most of the marriages are of arranged type with the consent of bride and groom. Marrying outside the caste is considered as a bad practice. Arranged marriages generally take place within the respective castes only. Marriage is a big ceremony for them and they do not hesitate to take loan for that. It is like a prestige issue. They do not kill snakes on Mondays and on the festival day of Nagpanchami. Hindus pierce the ears of babies and put golden earrings in them. Hindu girls and women pierce their nose also. A married Hindu woman wears a Mangalsutra around her neck, bangles in her hand, and toe rings, which indicate that she is married. She also applies a Kumkum spot or sticks a bindi between her two eyebrows. Showing respect to elders is an integral part of Hindu culture. A son must take care of his parents in their old age. Younger people touch the feet of their elders to show respect and take blessings from them. Mother, Father, and Teacher are considered as next to god and are highly respected. Hindus worship many deities. It is believed that there are 33 crore deities in Hinduism. Many festivals are celebrated throughout the year. There are different festivals for different deities. Hindus believe that Lord Vishnu incarnates on the earth from time to time to restore Dharma. Lord Brahma is not worshiped separately as he is cursed. There is only one temple of Brahma in India which is in Pushkar, Rajasthan. Laxmi Pujan in Diwali is considered as the biggest festival of Hindus. On that day, they worship Goddess Laxmi, the goddess of money. Generally, Hindu women and girls wear clothes, which would cover all the body except face such as Sari, Lehengas, Salwar Kameez, Ghagra choli, etc. A married Hindu woman considers her husband as God and the husband considers her as his Ardhangini Half Body. Before going for a long travel, they put lemons under the wheels of vehicles. They believe that it would save them from perils. They also break coconut and light incense stick in front of the vehicle for the same purpose. Many people tie seven chillis and a lemon woven in a thread or wire to the vehicle as they believe it saves them from negative energies. They tie a black doll over the front door of the house to stop bad powers from entering the house. A ceremony called Vastushanti is performed before going to live in a new house. The yagya performed during the ceremony is supposed to wipe out ghosts and other types of negative energies from the house. You would find an altar in every house which contains miniature idols of many Hindu deities. They clean and worship them everyday. The idols or pictures of Hindu deities are kept in such a way that they do not face South. The practice is observed in temples as well as homes also. It is believed that hell is located at South and paradise at North.

Chapter 8 : India Pop Culture

The Indian culture has absorbed and amalgamated many different customs and ideas throughout its long history which has led to a rich tradition and folk culture. The most popular musical instrument in India is the sitar, an instrument similar to a guitar.

The range of musical phenomenon in India extends from simple melodies to what is one of the most well-developed "systems" of classical music in the world. There are references to various string and wind instruments, as well as several kinds of drums and cymbals, in the Vedas. Some date the advent of the system of classical Indian music to Amir Khusro. Muslim rulers and noblemen freely extended their patronage to music. The great poet-saints who chose to communicate in the vernacular tongues brought forth a great upheaval in north India and the Bhakti or devotional movements they led gained many adherents. The lyrics of Surdas, Tulsidas, and most particularly Kabir and Mirabai continue to be immensely popular. By the sixteenth century, the division between North Indian Hindustani and South Indian Carnatic music was also being more sharply delineated. Classical music, both Hindustani and Carnatic, may be either instrumental or vocal.

Hindustani Gharanas There is a rich tradition of Gharanas in classical Hindustani music. The music Gharanas are also called styles. These schools or Gharanas have their basis in the traditional mode of musical training and education. Every Gharana has its own distinct features. Hindustani School Hindustani classical music is an Indian classical music tradition. It originated in North India around 13th and 14th centuries. In contrast to Carnatic music, the other main Indian classical music tradition from South India, the Hindustani classical music was not only influenced by ancient Hindu musical traditions and Vedic philosophy but also by the Persian elements. Music Glossary Achal Swaras are the fixed swaras of the seven musical notes. Sa and Pa are the achal swaras of the Indian classical music. The term Arohi, also known as Arohana and Aroh, is used to define the ascending melody in music. The Sitar has a long neck with twenty metal frets and six to seven main cords. Below the frets of Sitar are thirteen sympathetic strings which are tuned to the notes of the Raga. A gourd, which acts as a resonator for the strings is at the lower end of the neck of the Sitar.

Carnatic Music Carnatic music or Carnatic sangeet is the south Indian classical music. Carnatic music has a rich history and tradition and is one of the gems of world music. Hindi film industry, popularly known as Bollywood, along with Indian regional film industries, produces thousands of films a year, most of which are musicals and feature elaborate song and dance numbers.

Indian Fusion Music Fusion is not a very old trend in Indian music. Indian fusion music came into being with rock and roll fusions with Indian music in the s and s. Ghazals Ghazal is a common and popular form of music in Indian and Pakistan. Strictly speaking, it is not a musical form at all but a poetic recitation. However, today it is commonly conceived of as an Urdu song whose prime importance is given to the lyrics. Ghazal traces its roots in classical Arabic poetry.

Folk Music India is a land of cultural diversities. Every region in India has its own form of folk music. This rich tradition of folk music is very much alive in not just rural India, but also in some metros. Though one may say that music has acquired a totally different definition with the arrival of pop culture and new age cinema, there are many who would beg to differ. Shayari Shayari or rhyming poetry basically comprises of a couplet known as Sher. This is the way that this unique and beautiful form of poetry derives the name Sher O Shayari. Most of the forms of Shayari are found in the Urdu language. However, one may find Shero Shayari in Hindi, Punjabi, etc.

Pandit Shivkumar Sharma Pandit Shivkumar Sharma is a very famous classical musician who has acquired international fame by playing the classical instrument, Santoor. The Santoor is a trapezoid-shaped hammered dulcimer often made of walnut wood and has 72 strings, which are struck with two delicate carved wooden mallets. He was born on 9th March, and showed much interest in tabla since a very young age. This child prodigy started touring by the time he was twelve and started to perform at concerts and gain much recognition and fame. Shyam Shankar, his father, was a barrister. He had an elder brother Uday Shankar who was a famous Indian classical dancer.

Indian Classical Singers The art of classical singing is being practiced in the Indian subcontinent since ages. The art is popular, not as a form of entertainment, but as a means of connecting with the Divine Being. Infact, it is considered as one of the basic ways through which a human

being can connect with God. Some of these Ragas are said to have a divine quality in them, which helps an individual in meditating. In this section, we have provided a brief biography of the famous classical singers of India. Indian Singers Indian subcontinent is home to some of the best talents in every field, be it music, singing, painting, acting, and so on. These famous personalities have made the country proud at not only the national, but also international level. They have taken the rich art and culture of India beyond geographical boundaries. Special mention needs to be given in case of Indian singers, who have made Indian music famous throughout the world. Their soothing voice and poignant performance has stirred many hearts. This section gives a list of popular singers of India.

Chapter 9 : Native Americans in popular culture - Wikipedia

The portrayal of Native Americans in popular culture has oscillated between the fascination with the noble savage who lives in harmony with nature, and the stereotype of the uncivilized "bad guys" in the traditional Western genre.