

# Ancient India's Contributions to the Modern World

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*By: Gayathri Kalla*

*“All the powers of the universe are already ours. It is we who have put our hands before our eyes and cry that it is dark.” ~Swami Vivekananda*

*Ancient India had modern ideas. It does indeed hold the powers of the universe, and used its vast abilities to help and improve mankind, through complex mathematics, enriched forms of medicine, and alluring literature at the very least. India and its people have long been regarded as brilliant because of our impressive contributions to the world.*

*Exquisite sculptures and paintings, striking dance forms, and splendid works of literature all illustrate the beauty and power of Hindu gods and goddesses. Indians have frozen the beauty of the human body in carvings of stone and bronze, as well as through divine, colorful paintings. Indians also show their devotion through classical dance, like Bharatnatyam and Kuchipudi, with refined hand-gestures and facial emotions. Dance shows the triumphs of the many Hindu gods. The Vedas are one of the many appearances of the rich Sanskrit language. They are ancient scriptures with the Divine Word written in human speech. They are filled with mysterious meanings.*

*Indians are remembered as ones who excel in mathematics and sciences because of our knowledgeable past. Our intellectual scholars have thought up place value and the decimal system, which is now taken for granted, but then was an amazing discovery. They first created Algebra, Geometry, and Algorithm. Brahmagupta, an astronomer, put forth the concept of zero, a place holder, and a numeral of no value. This revelation opened up the possibilities of negative numbers. In astronomy, India calculated eclipse occurrences, Earth's circumference, the idea of a solar system, and so much more that influenced today. Medicine too was amazing. Ayurveda is the practice of medicine with herbs. They found that certain types of plants shaped like the body part healed that area. Homeopathy is another form. However, in homeopathy, the main idea is that something taken in large amounts that cause symptoms can be treated with small amounts of that same thing. It's about treating like with like.*

*As we creep closer to the modern days, we stumble on the timeline of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the role model for every person who walks this earth. When India was under British rule, many brave souls rushed forward to fight. Gandhi, however, stepped back and entered a non-violence movement. He boycotted against the British people, and never gave in, but never fought back in a violent manner. He led a massive non-violent movement. The British gave in and declared India independent. This great man prompted Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela to not play offense against their opponents, but to protect defense.*

*The magnificent donations of knowledge India gave the world shows how influential this special country is. All of this awe-inspiring wisdom of ancient India has moved with the generations towards today to help the future. As I look upon the colors orange, white, and green, pride for my home country emerges.*