

India's Contributions to the World

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When you think about India, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Well, many things come to my mind, such as the number system, yoga, the sewage system, and much, much more!

Mathematics is very important in life, and thanks to India, we could come across various topics such as algebra, trigonometry, calculus, quadratic equations, and the most important of all, the number zero! The number zero was invented by Aryabhatta. The place value and the decimal system were both born in India. The value of pi was first calculated by Budhyana. He also explained the topic of the Pythagorean Theorem. It is difficult to imagine our daily lives without them.

Many of the medical practices that are followed today were started in India. Ayurveda, the earliest school of medicine known to mankind, was invented in India. Sushruta, known as the "Father of Surgeries", and his team performed many brain surgeries, plastic surgeries, artificial limb transplants, and cataract surgeries. Knowledge of the metabolism, physiology, anatomy, digestion, and immunity is also found in many ancient Indian texts. Anesthesia was known to ancient Indian medical practitioners. Yoga, a great exercise, was invented in India. Yoga spread to Northern Asia by Buddhist monks. Kung Fu is a derivation of Yoga. Martial arts were first created in India.

Many technological and scientific advances have also taken place in India. The hand propelled wheel was invented in India. This invention really helped in many of the modern inventions. The technique of manufacturing sugar was invented in India. Tin and camphor were both discovered in India. India was also the first civilization to have a sewage system. Irrigation was invented in the Indus Valley civilization. The earliest dam for irrigation and reservoir were built in India. The art of navigation was also invented in India. Bhaskaracharya calculated the Earth orbits around the sun for exactly 365.258756484 days. He was also the first person to discover gravity. Acharya Kanad found the atomic theory which is "Every object of creation is made of atoms which in turn connect with each other to form molecules".

Many games were invented in India. The game Snakes and Ladders (also known as Chutes and Ladders) has originated in India. The ladders represented good deeds while snakes represented bad deeds. Though the game went through many changes, the meaning of the game remained the same; good deeds take you to heaven while bad deeds make you go through a cycle of rebirths. Chess originated in the Gupta Empire, before the sixth century C.E.

Nalanda is the oldest residential university with nearly 10,000 students and 2000 faculty members. Takshashila is another ancient university where students learned grammar, philosophy, prose, logic, metaphysics, astrology, astronomy, ayurveda, and mathematics.

India, the original cultural melting pot, is a hugely diverse country. India has been a beacon of knowledge, spirituality, and non-violence. India's contributions to the world are invaluable, incalculable, and difficult to cover in 500 pages, let alone in 500 words!