

get
curious
about

KNOWLEDGE SERIES

INDIA

Vol. - 3

This book belongs to

Welcome to an educational initiative by Greycaps.

'get curious about' is a knowledge series, aimed at igniting curiosity in young minds and encouraging them to explore further in the world of knowledge. The book chronicles amazing facts, which we do not come across in our day-to-day lives.

India is a land of many colours and has a rich cultural heritage. This third volume of the 'INDIA' edition of the book explores our states and union territories with topics ranging from interesting places to our diverse culture. It captures fun filled facts with colourful pictures, a great way to discover India.

Let's read. Let's 'get curious about INDIA'.

PickBali

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Andaman & Nicobar Islands



ABOUT THIS BOOK

Each page in this book has special features that will show you how to grab on to as much information as possible! Look out for these.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Gives you facts on how a name was coined.



Provides details on exclusive buildings and their importance.



Introduces unknown or out-of-the-box facts.



Describes various food items unique to that place.



Provides information on cultural festivals.



Describes various talents and artistic skills unique to the place.



Describes sights which were formed by nature.



Enumerates the dances related to that culture.



All colour images that bring the topic to life.

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INDIA

India has rightly been called a melting pot for its rich, diverse cultures and traditions that co-exist peacefully. With time, the Indian subcontinent (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma i.e, present day Myanmar) has changed and incorporated various cultures within its own myriad of cultures.

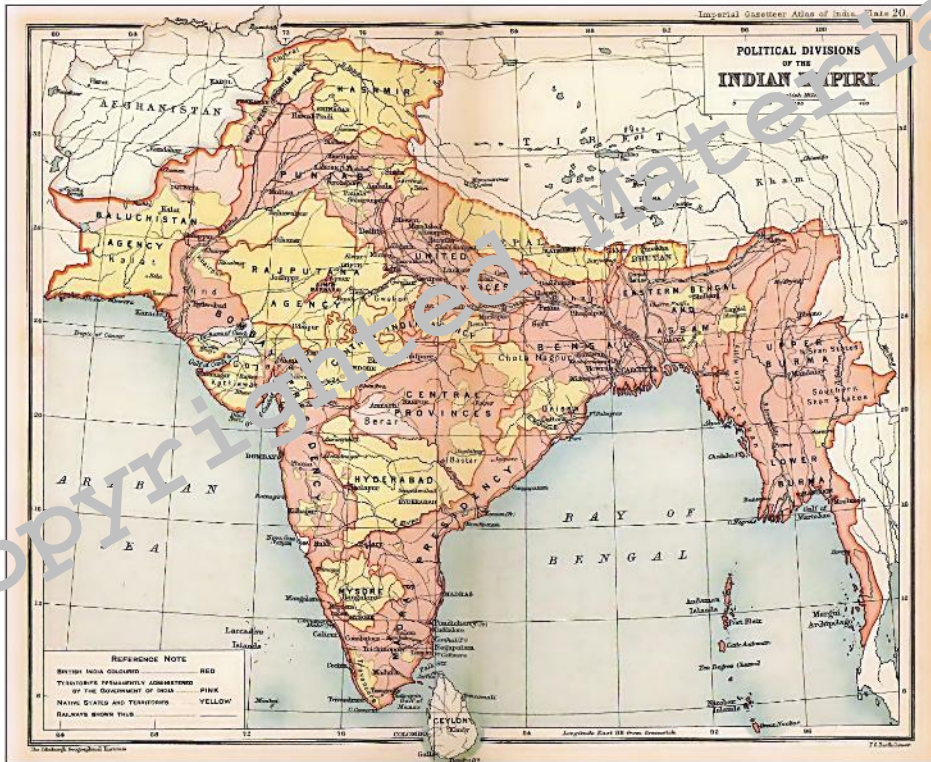
It is in this region that the great civilisation of the Indus Valley flourished. It is in this region where various dynasties built their empires; the Mauryas, Guptas, Rajputs, Cholas, Mughals and many others. The British rule left a mark in the Indian history, narrating the struggles for freedom and independence. The Indian subcontinent was being ruled by different kings for centuries, but the British ruled the subcontinent with two administrative systems. The British India was divided into Provinces and the Princely states. The Provinces, also known as 'Presidencies of British India', were regions that were directly under the rule of the English. About 60% of the subcontinent's territory was the provincial system of administration. The Princely states were regions ruled by Indian Kings who were under the British control and constituted 40% of the Indian territory. After Independence, the princely states and the provinces merged to form a single country called India.

However, it is interesting to take a look at the various maps of the Indian subcontinent across different eras. The map has never remained the same for two different periods in history. The Indian map, before the Independence of India, does not have distinct borders separating different provinces. Today, we have clear borders that separate each state and union territory, giving each region its own unique identity. These boundaries are mere imaginary lines drawn for division of land and political purposes, but we have to remember that these lines



INDIA

neither divide our cultures nor our people. With urbanisation, it has become a common sight to see Indians migrating to different regions, especially metropolitan cities, where the individuals are acquiring new social and cultural identity. However, every person stays rooted in his or her own culture and accepts the differences of other individuals and communities. Thus, India is a land of Unity in Diversity.



Map of the British Indian Empire from Imperial Gazetteer Atlas of India, 1909

Source : Oxford University Press

INDIA



States and Union Territories of India

DELHI

The National Capital Territory of Delhi is one of the Union Territories of India. Its capital is New Delhi, which is also the capital city of India. New Delhi is one of the eleven districts of the National Capital Territory. In the year 1911, George V, the British emperor, shifted the capital of the East India Company, from Kolkata to Delhi. From then on, even after independence, Delhi remained the national capital.

Delhi was known as 'Indraprastha' in the epic, Mahabharata. Old Delhi has been the capital of the Mughal Empire, while New Delhi is the capital of the British Empire and Independent India. The official languages spoken here are Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The name 'Delhi' is the anglicised form of the Hindi word 'Dilli' and is believed to have been named after a former ruler Raja Dhilu. Another story suggests that the word 'Dilli' is a short version of its ancient name 'Dhilli'.

The Weird Museum

Isn't it weird when you come across a museum dedicated to toilets?

The 'Sulabh International Museum', New Delhi, was inaugurated in 1994. This museum is known to have different types of toilets used around the world. It looks at the evolution of the toilets through the years. This museum has been included in the top ten lists of the world's weirdest museums.



Sulabh International Museum

The main intention of opening this museum was to educate people on the importance of sanitation and hygiene. It also helps in learning about the history of sanitation.

DELHI

FAST FACTS

- Edward Lutyens and Herbert Baker designed the city of Delhi.
- The 'Qutub Minar' in New Delhi is the world's tallest brick minaret. Its construction was started by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, ruler of the Slave dynasty and was completed by his son, Iltutmish.
- The wholesale market at Azadpur, is Asia's largest fruit and vegetable market. Nearly 3,000 trucks bring in fruits and vegetables here daily, for over 30,000 vendors.
- After Nairobi in Kenya, the Delhi ridge is the world's second most bird-rich capital city in the world.



Qutub Minar

Popular Market!

This famous market in Delhi is often seen in popular films, mentioned in few books and is known to be the biggest market in India. This market is the 'Chandni Chowk'. Chandni Chowk means the 'moonlit market'. It was built by Shah Jahan and his daughter, Princess Jahanara, in the 17th century. It gets this name because of the open canals that used to reflect the moonlight. Now, those canals have been closed. This market was visited by merchants of Turkey, China and other countries. Today, this market is a famous shopping destination that attracts many tourists from all over the world. From elegant clothes and shining pearls to delicious street food, Chandni Chowk has it all, as it is the busiest place in Delhi.



Chandni Chowk



Azad market

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

Andaman & Nicobar Islands are a group of 572 islands, located in the Bay of Bengal. The capital of Andaman Islands is Port Blair and the capital of Nicobar Islands is Car Nicobar. The islands became a part of India in 1950 and were declared a Union Territory in 1956. English and Hindi are the official languages of these islands. The other major languages are Bengali, Nicobarese, Tamil and Telugu.



Nature's Wonder!

In the easternmost group of the Andaman Islands, lies an island which is home to the only active volcano in South Asia. This island is called the 'Barren Island'. The first volcanic eruption, here, was recorded for the first time in the year 1787. From then on, the volcano has erupted more than ten times. Recently, the volcano erupted in 2010.

Baratang, another island in the Andaman, is the only known example of mud volcanoes.



Barren Island

FAST FACTS

- ◆ Out of the 572 islands, only 36 islands are inhabited by people. The rest are covered by the forests.



Mount Harriet

- ◆ The image on the back of a twenty rupee Indian note is that of Mount Harriet and the Port Blair Light House, as seen from the Megapode resort in Port Blair.
- ◆ The famous Cellular Jail, also known as 'Kala Pani' (Black water), is located in Port Blair. During the British rule, freedom fighters like Veer Savarkar were sent to this prison.