

Dear Kesarians,

On the occasion of Independence day, let's check out some interesting facts about India.

1. The Indian national Kabaddi team has won all World Cups.

India has won all 5 men's Kabaddi World Cups held till now and have been undefeated throughout these tournaments.

The Indian women's team has also won all Kabaddi World Cups held till date.

2. Water on the moon was discovered by India.

In September 2009, India's ISRO Chandrayaan- 1 using its Moon Mineralogy Mapper detected water on the moon for the first time.

3. Science day in Switzerland is dedicated to Ex-Indian President, APJ Abdul Kalam.

The father of India's missile programme had visited Switzerland back in 2006. Upon his arrival, Switzerland declared May 26th as Science Day.

4. India's first President only took 50% of his salary.

When Dr Rajendra Prasad was appointed the President of India, he only took 50% of his salary, claiming he did not require more than that.

Towards the end of his 12-year tenure he only took 25% of his salary. The salary of the President was Rs 10,000 back then.

5. The first rocket in India was transported on a cycle.

The first rocket was so light and small that it was transported on a bicycle to the Thumba Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

6. India has a spa just for elephants.

Elephants receive baths, massages and even food at the Punnathoor Cotta Elephant Yard Rejuvenation Centre in Kerala. Now that's a BIG step for the country.

7. India is the world's second-largest English speaking country.

India is second only to the USA when it comes to speaking English with around 125 million people speaking the language, which is only 10% of our population. This is expected to grow by quite a margin in the coming years.

8. Largest number of vegetarians in the world

Be it because of religious reasons or personal choices or both, around 20-40% of Indians are vegetarians, making it the largest vegetarian-friendly country in the world.

9. The world's largest producer of milk

India recently overtook the European Union with production reaching over 132.4m tonnes in 2014.

10. The first country to consume sugar

India was the first country to develop extraction and purifying techniques of sugar. Many visitors from abroad learnt the refining and cultivation of sugar from us.

11. The human calculator

Shakuntla Devi was given this title after she demonstrated the calculation of two 13 digit numbers: $7,686,369,774,870 \times 2,465,099,745,779$ which were picked at random. She answered correctly within 28 seconds.

12. Rabindranath Tagore also wrote the national anthem for Bangladesh

Rabindranath Tagore is credited not only for writing the Indian national anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, but the Bangladeshi national anthem, *Amar Sonar Bangla*, as well. He was also offered knighthood by the British but refused the honour after the Jalianwala Bagh massacre.

13. Havell's is purely an Indian brand & named after its first owner

Though the company was bought for just 10 lakh Rupees a long time ago and is now a multi-billion electrical goods company, it's an Indian company and is still named after its original owner, Haveli Ram Gupta.

14. Snakes and Ladders originated in India

Earlier known as Moksha Patamu, the game was initially invented as a moral lesson about *karma* to be taught to children. It was later commercialized and has become one of the most popular board games in the world.

15. India's name is derived from the "Indus" river.

16. India has the world's third largest active army, after China and USA.

- 17. Every 12 years, a religious gathering called the Kumbh Mela occurs in India. It is the world's largest gathering of people. It is visible from the space.**
- 18. Indian Railways employs more than 1.3 million people. That's more than the population of many nations.**
- 19. Number of births in India every year is more than the total population of Australia, and many other nations.**
- 20. In a village called Shani Shingnapur in Maharashtra, people have been living in houses with no doors for generations. This is because they believe that whoever steals anything from this place will incur the wrath of Shani God and will have to pay for his/her sins very dearly. There is no police station in this village either.**
- 21. Viswanathan Anand is the first player in chess history to have won the World Championship in three different formats: knockout, tournament, and match.**
- 22. Chess was invented in India, and shampoo, discovered the number zero, and plastic surgery.**
- 23. Sachin Tendulkar. (Okay, you know this!)**
- 24. India is the largest producer of films in the world.**
- 25. Two major religions, Buddhism and Jainism, were established in India.**
- 26. The first Granite Temple of the world, the Brihadeswara Temple is situated in Tamil Nadu. It was built during the 11th century, in only five years.**
- 27. Around the 17th century, India was one of the richest countries in the world.**
- 28. The Bandra Worli Sea link is having the steel wires equal to the circumference of the earth.**

29. Tourism in India generated Rs. 6.4 trillion (95 billion dollar) in 2012.

30. Tourism in India supports over 40 million jobs. The sector is predicted to grow at an average annual rate of 7.9 percent till 2023.

Thank you.

Warm Regards,

www.kesari.in

SAHIL

Training Coordinator
Learning and Development

D +9122 2423 4399

E sahilp@kesari.in

KESARI TOURS, INDIA
314, L.J.Road, Mahim, Mumbai - 400016 India.

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