

More about India

1 More facts about India

a) The Indian government has a list of interesting facts about India on its website. Here are only ten of them. Check through the facts and make a list. Find headings (e.g. education, medicine, religion, etc.) and sort the facts in the list under the headings.

1. India never invaded any country in her last 100,000 years of history.
2. The name 'India' is derived from the River Indus.
3. Algebra and Trigonometry are studies, which originated in India.
4. India is the largest democracy in the world and the 7th largest country in the world.
5. The world's first university was established in Takshila in 700 BC.
6. Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to mankind (ca. 2,500 years old).
7. Until 1896, India was the only source of diamonds in the world.
8. India exports software to 90 countries.
9. There are 300,000 active mosques in India, more than in any other country, including the Muslim world.
10. Martial Arts were first created in India, and later spread to Asia by Buddhist missionaries.

b) Work with a partner. Choose two of the facts that you find interesting. Do a survey in class and make a chart: how many people chose the same facts?

2 The languages of India

a) Look carefully at this picture of a street in an Indian city. What do you notice about the signs on the buildings? Think of the language and the type of writing.



b) India has 22 official, or 'scheduled', languages, and 97% of the population speak one or more of these. But people say that there are more than 1,600 languages and dialects in the country. What problems do you think this can cause? Discuss with a partner.

Lösungen

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 1

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- a) politics: facts 1, 4; history: fact 2; education: facts 3, 5; geography: fact 4; medicine: fact 6; economy: facts 7, 8; religion: fact 9; sports: fact 10
- b) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*

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- a) The picture shows signs in English and in Indian languages. Not all of them are in the European (Roman) alphabet.
- b) Important information from the government must be given in many different languages so that everyone understands it. This is more expensive than using just one language. Translations can cause misunderstandings, too.