

# INDIA A SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL INTRODUCTION BEFORE TRAVELING THERE

A. D. Amar, Ph.D.

Professor of Management  
Stillman School of Business  
Seton Hall University  
South Orange, NJ 07079, USA

[Ad.amar@shu.edu](mailto:Ad.amar@shu.edu)

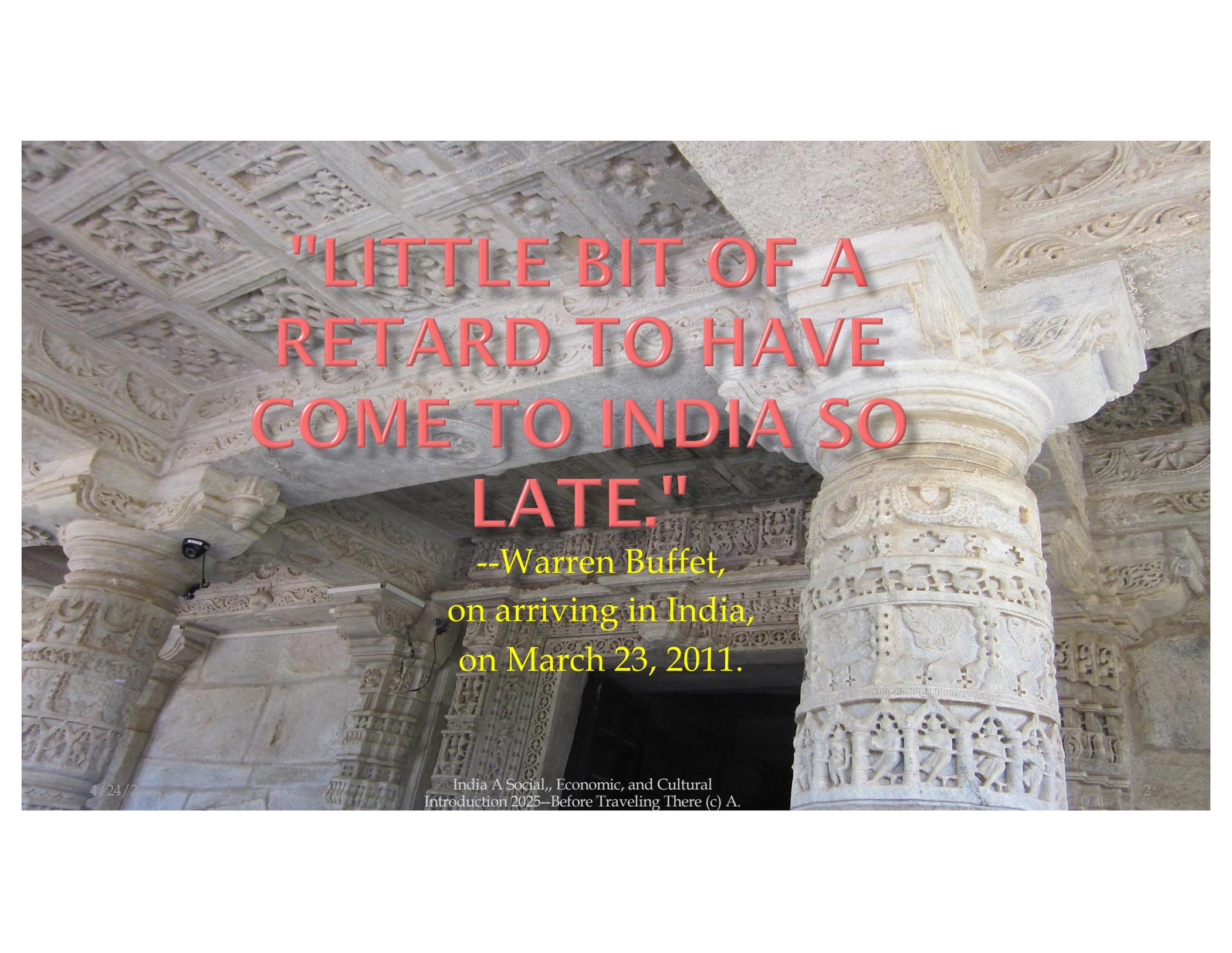
Tel. +1 973 761 9684

and

Mariam Ngaruiya  
Student DBI 2025

Ranakpur Temple  
Picture & Design  
by A. D. Amar

India A Social, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025 - Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All



"LITTLE BIT OF A  
RETARD TO HAVE  
COME TO INDIA SO  
LATE."

--Warren Buffet,  
on arriving in India,  
on March 23, 2011.

India A Social, Economic, and Cultural  
Introduction 2025--Before Traveling There (c) A.

## Sir William Jones in Calcutta in 1798

*The Sanskrit language, whatever be its antiquity, is of a wonderful structure; more perfect than the Greek more copious than the Latin, and more exquisitely refined than either, yet bearing to both of them a stronger affinity,...than could possibly have been produced by accident; so strong indeed, that no philologer could examine all three, without believing them to have sprung from some common source.*

Douglas Tan | National University of Singapore



# INDIA: THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE CENTURY

Building on the background of the Indian subcontinent, covering its strategic geography, history, beliefs, culture, and the economy, this immersive experience presents the current and emerging environment of India for the twenty-first century considering India for any purpose as this will definitely be the commencement. The students will explore this huge country, diverse people, and beautiful land from the Himalayas to the tip of the Indian Ocean and its large knowledge economy that has specialized in IT. Since India has a very ancient culture—in fact, the oldest culture alive—the geographic clustering of people in its various parts is a consequence of the evolution that occurred in the last several millennia; the immersion will go into India's various regions with a view to highlight the strengths of the regions specific to its diversity and peaceful evolution of coexistence. Using various sites covering last several millennia, this immersion will focus on the interests of a broader audience.

India A Social,, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025--Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.

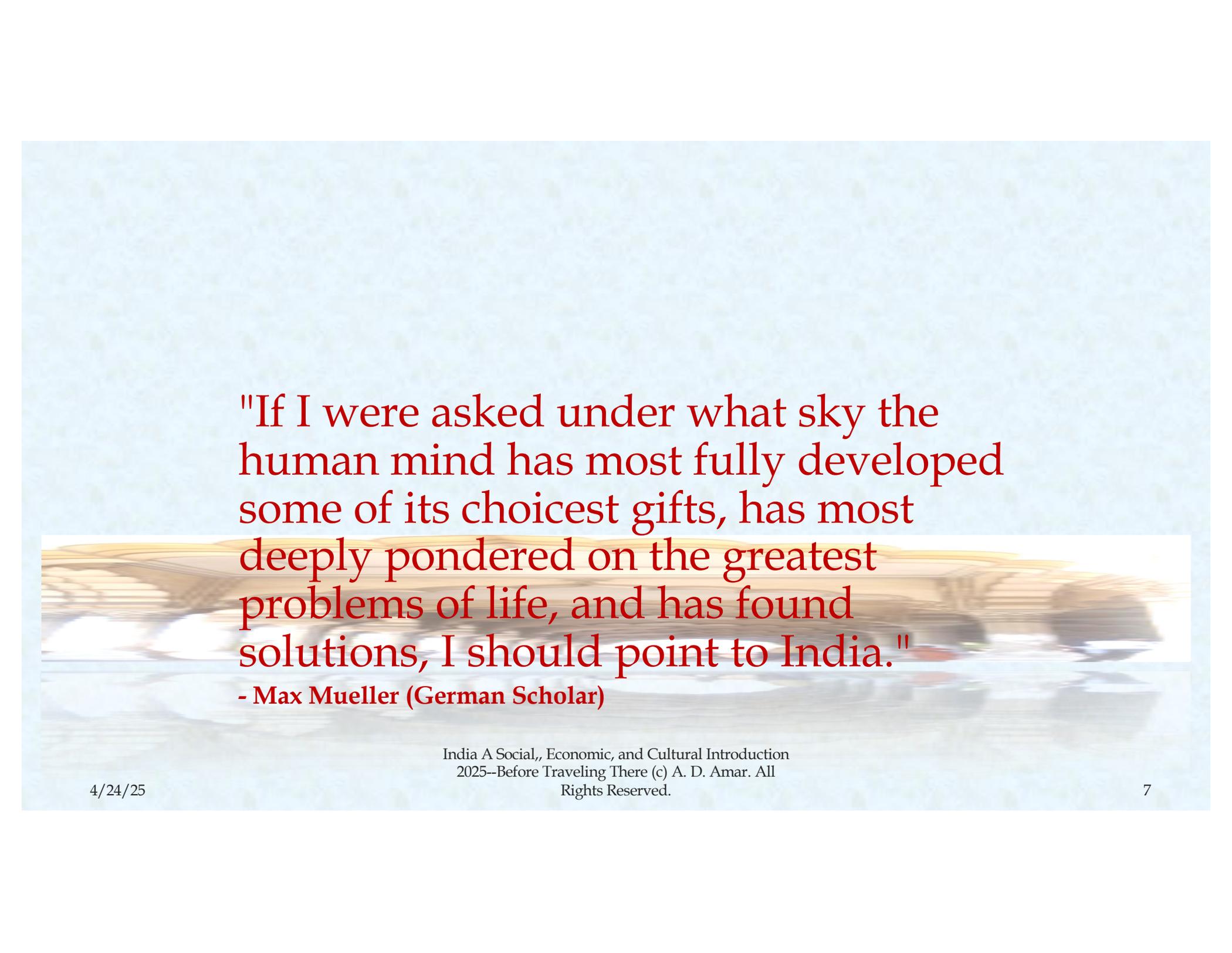
# A Bit from History

- ▣ India has the longest contiguous culture and civilization that had gone on for over 10,000 years. The archeologists and astrologists are still at work.
- ▣ Muhammad Gori of the present-day Afghanistan who, for India's wealth and spreading Islam, after numerous defeats, took over India in 1191 CE that began India's slavery.
- ▣ For the next 500 years, wars among various invaders from the Middle East went on for the control and wealth of India which had been the richest country.
- ▣ Year 1498 was the start of the European – Portuguese, Spanish, French, Dutch, and British invasions of India for colonizing. Finally, the British East India Company won the 1757 war and began its rule of India. After the 1857-58 uprising by the Indians with the French failed, Queen Victoria made India a British Empire colony.
- ▣ Freedom came to India on August 15, 1947, after decades of mostly peaceful uprisings. The British divided India into India and Pakistan. Bangladesh was spun off the latter on March 26, 1971 by India fighting Pakistan for Bangladeshis.

# The India of Today

- ❑ India is a country that occupies the greater part of South Asia. It is a constitutional republic that represents a highly diverse population .
- ❑ India GDP is growing at the highest rate of any major economy.
- ❑ India has the fourth largest stock market in the world
- ❑ By 2027, India will be the third largest economy.
- ❑ With a population of 1.442 billion, India is the most populated country in the world.
- ❑ It is the largest democracy that thrived on peace as strategy.
- ❑ Landed a rocket on the dark side of the moon on August 23, 2023 where there is water and life is possible.

India A Social,, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025--Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.



"If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions, I should point to India."  
- Max Mueller (German Scholar)

India A Social,, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025--Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.



INDIA NAME COMES FROM THE INDUS RIVER,  
ONE OF THE RIVERS IN PUNJAB STATE OF  
INDIA (IN 1947, IT WENT TO PAKISTAN)

The local name of the Indus river is Sindu. Because the ancient Egyptians, who came to India to trade, mispronounced Sindu as "Hindu," the natives of this region became known as "Hindus" among Arabs and others. Hindu literally meant people who lived in the Indus valley area; however, these people called themselves Aryans.

India A Social, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025-Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.

# Ancient India

- ▣ The world's first university was established in **Takshashila, India in 700 BCE**. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects. In the 5th century CE, Hephthalites (Pashto – Afghans) destroyed it.  
<https://hinduperspective.com/2013/04/21/takshashila-the-worlds-first-known-university/>
  - Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to the humankind. The Father of Medicine, an Indian medical researcher, Charka, compiled *Ayurveda* 2500 years ago.
  - The art of navigation & navigating were born in the North Indian river Sindh more than 6000 years ago. The very word “navigation” is derived from the Sanskrit word 'NAVGATIH'. The word navy is also derived from the Sanskrit word 'Nou' (meaning boat).
- ▣ The University of Nalanda, built in the 4th century CE, was another of the greatest achievements of the ancient India in the field of education. Destroyed by Turkish in 1193 CE. The university library took 3 months to burn.



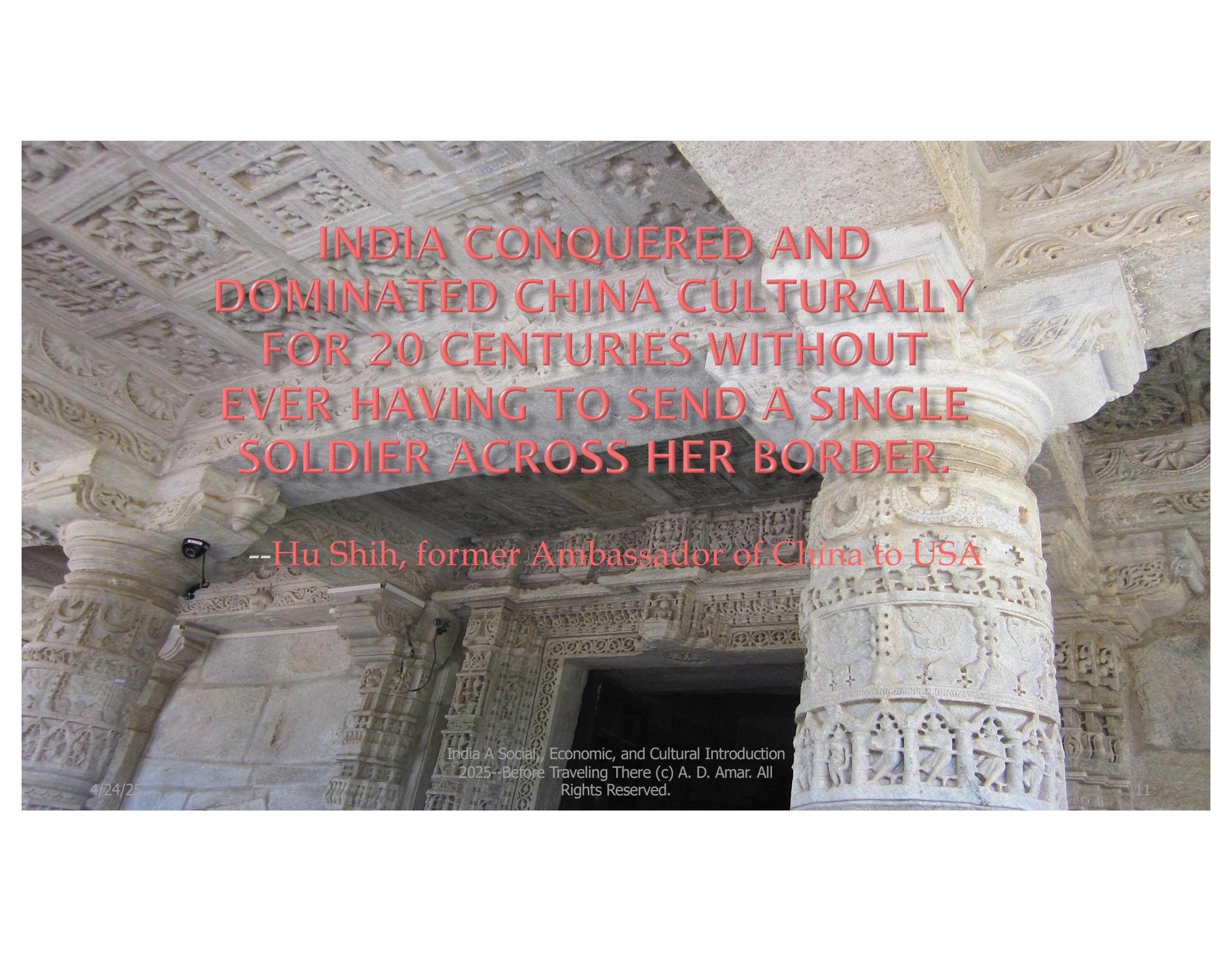
2025--Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All Rights Reserved.



# Spirituality

- ❑ The largest religious building in the world is **Angkor Wat**, a Hindu Temple, in Cambodia built at the end of the 11th century CE by the Indians who founded Cambodia from the first century CE when they serendipitously ended up there.
- ❑ The Vishnu Temple in the city of **Tirupathi**, in south India, built in the 10th century CE, is the world's largest religious pilgrimage destination. Larger than either Rome or Mecca; an average of 30,000 visitors donate US\$6 million to the temple everyday.
- ❑ **Padmanabhaswamy** Temple's riches were valued at \$22 billion when counting was stopped by the Supreme Court of India because of the fear of invasion.
- ❑ **Varanasi**, a city in North-East India, also known as Benaras, was called "the Ancient City" when Lord Buddha visited it in 500 BCE. It is the oldest, continuously inhabited city in the world today.
- ❑ **Religion, spirituality, theology, and philosophy** are virtually scattered all over India and reside in all Indians.

India A Social,, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025--Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.



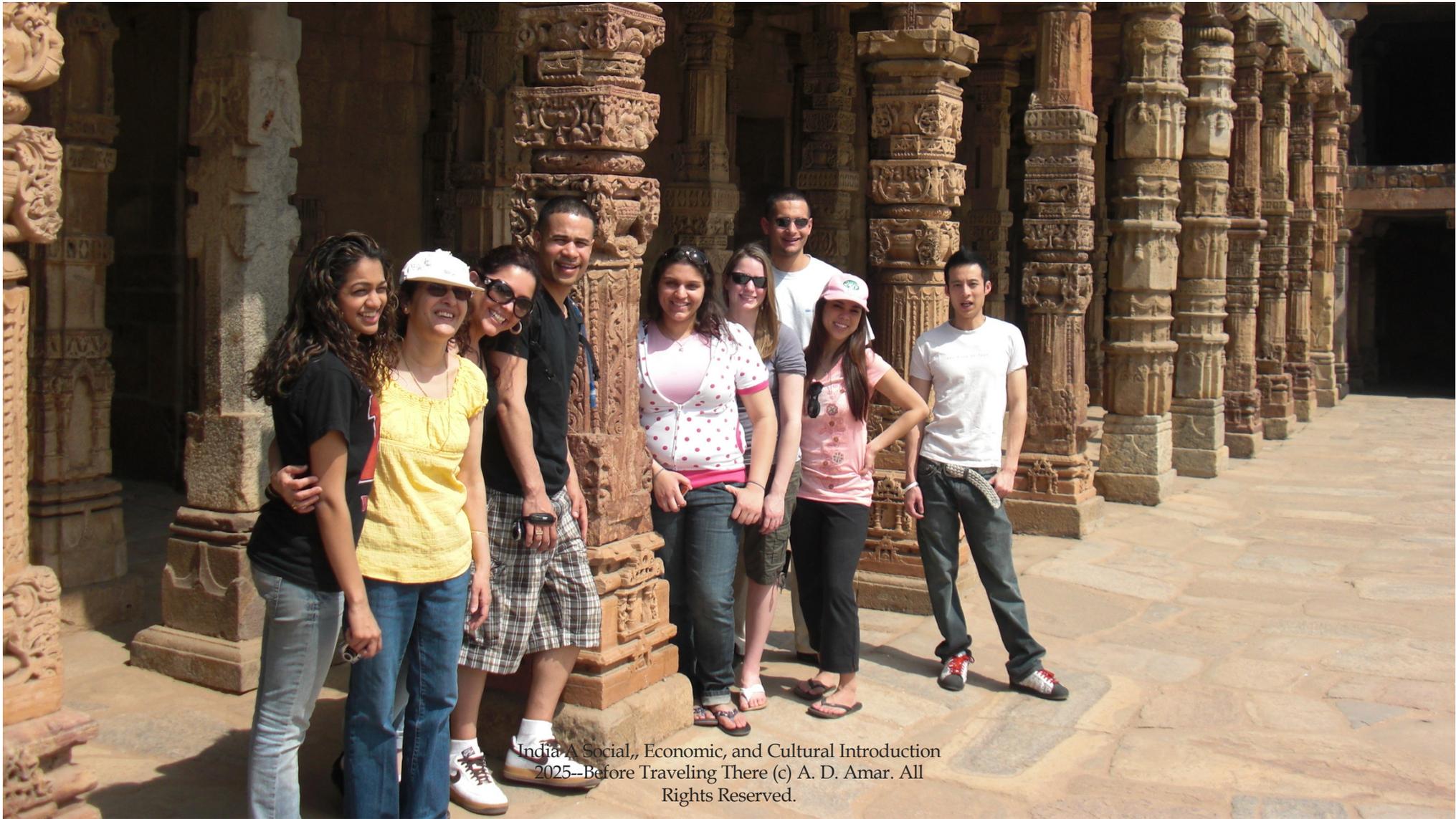
INDIA CONQUERED AND  
DOMINATED CHINA CULTURALLY  
FOR 20 CENTURIES WITHOUT  
EVER HAVING TO SEND A SINGLE  
SOLDIER ACROSS HER BORDER.

--Hu Shih, former Ambassador of China to USA

India A Social, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025--Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.

4/24/25

11



India: A Social, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025--Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.



India A Social,, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025--Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.



4/24/25

14



4/24/25

# Experiencing India First Hand

- In February-March 2025, students of "Doing Business in India 2025" visited India.
- Key observation: India's economic growth is significantly driven by its informal economy.
- This presentation will explore the factors contributing to this growth and the role of the informal sector.



# Understanding Indias Informal Business Structure



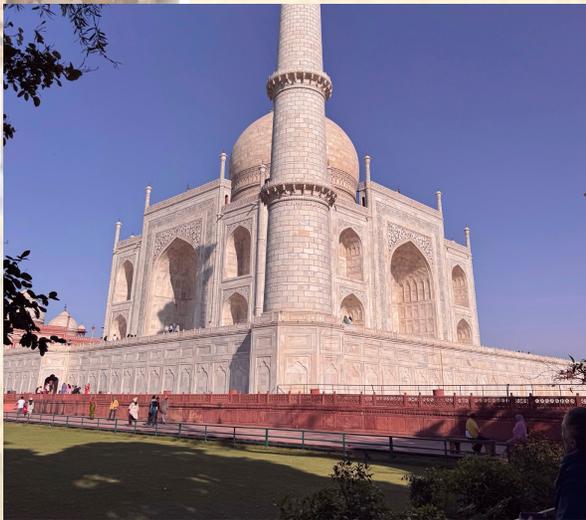
- ❑ Comprises a significant portion of the Indian economy.
- ❑ Employs approximately 80% of the workforce.
- ❑ Encompasses a wide array of activities:
  - Street vending
  - Construction work
  - Agricultural labor
- ❑ Can sometimes offer competitive pay compared to traditional jobs.
- ❑ Allows more freedom

# Challenges of an Informal Economy

- ❑ Lack of social security benefits for workers.
- ❑ Absence of tax contributions to the formal economy.
- ❑ Businesses face a major risk of financial burden during economic downturns or personal crises.
- ❑ Often characterized by precarious working conditions.
- ❑ Limited access to formal credit and resources.



# Questions ?





THANK YOU!

India A Social, Economic, and Cultural Introduction  
2025-Before Traveling There (c) A. D. Amar. All  
Rights Reserved.

4/24/2025

20