



University of  
Massachusetts  
Dartmouth

## *India, A 'Diversiland'*

Bal Ram Singh

Center for Indic Studies

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

# Beginning with the New World



From Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia © 1998 The Learning Company, Inc.

In August 1492 Columbus left Europe on a westward journey in search of the east. In October 1492, he reached what is now known as San Salvador, but believed he was in India till his death on May 20, 1506. The NEW WORLD was 'discovered' only after his death

# Indian Connection in American Independence



- Boston Tea Party, December 16, 1773 - the tea dumped was Indian tea, brought to Boston harbor by the British East India Company.
- The name of the first ship carrying the tea was 'Dartmouth'



US President George W Bush examines some baskets and hats made from simple waste material such as palm and banana leaves during a visit to Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University in Hyderabad on Friday, March 3, 2006.

# Center for Indic Studies, UMass Dartmouth



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*Continuation of the Traditional Link Between  
India and America*

**Massachusetts**

Swami Vivekananda – 1893

Paramhansa Yogananda - 1920

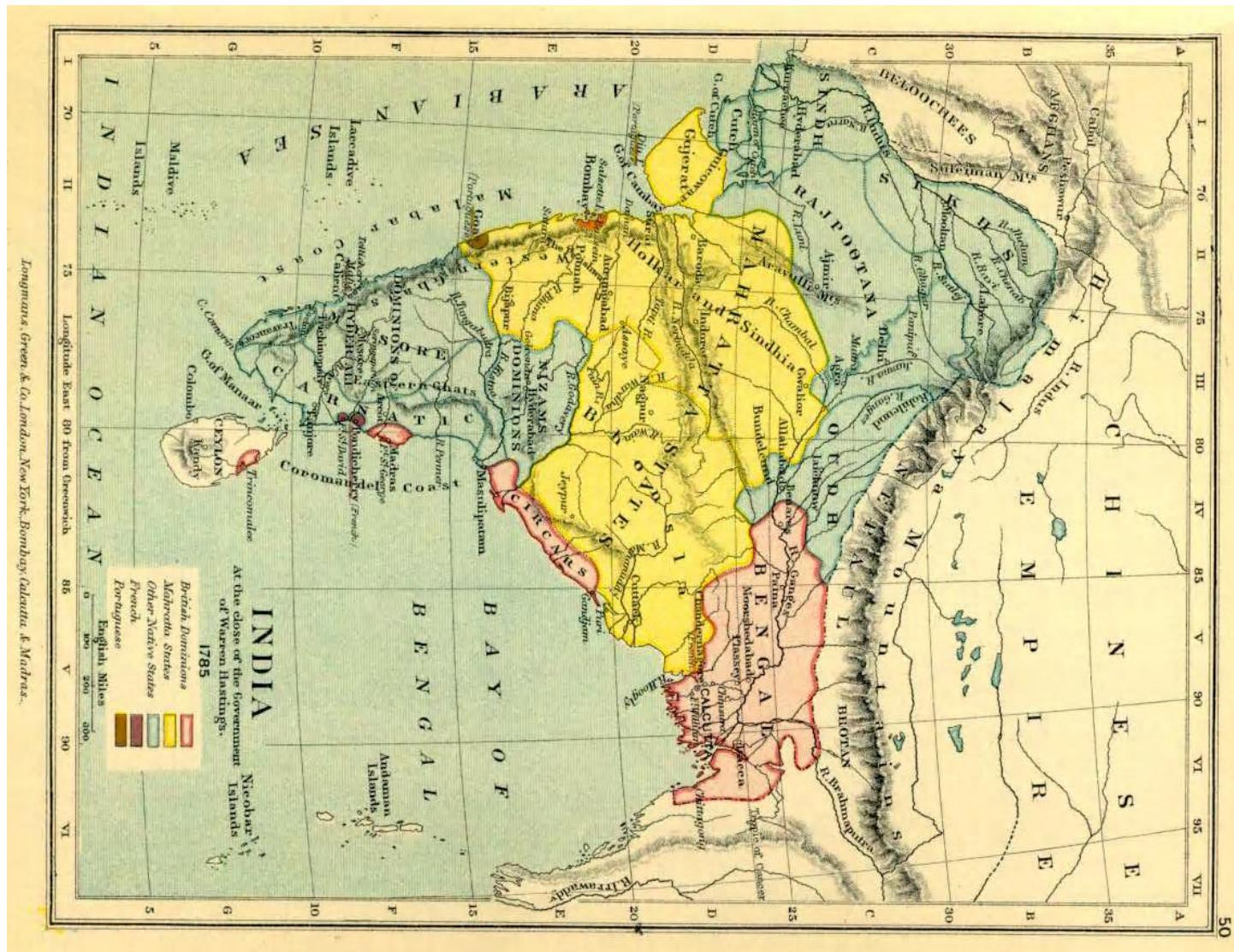
Swami Prabhupad – 1965

Deshpande – Sycamore – 1970s

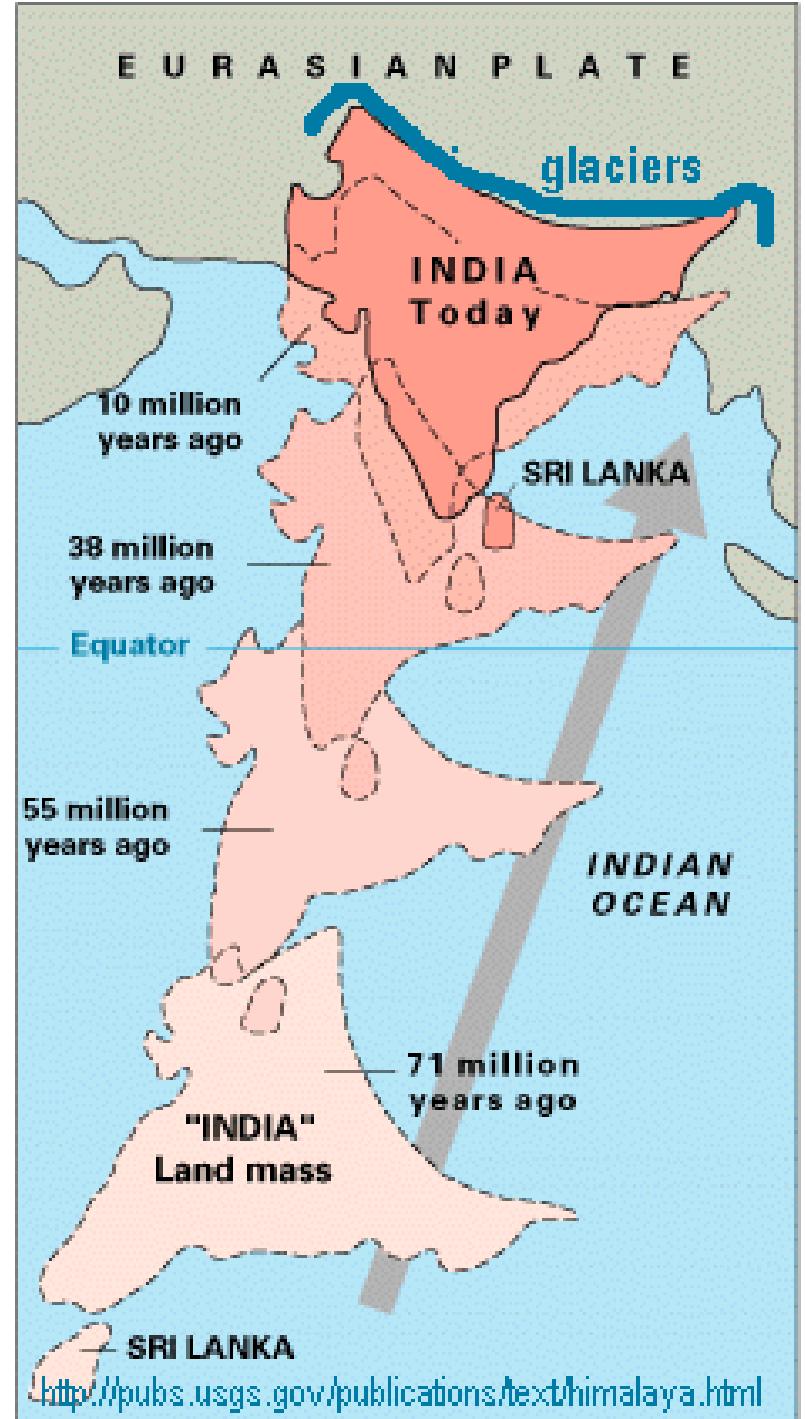
Singh –Center for Indic Studies – UMD - 1990

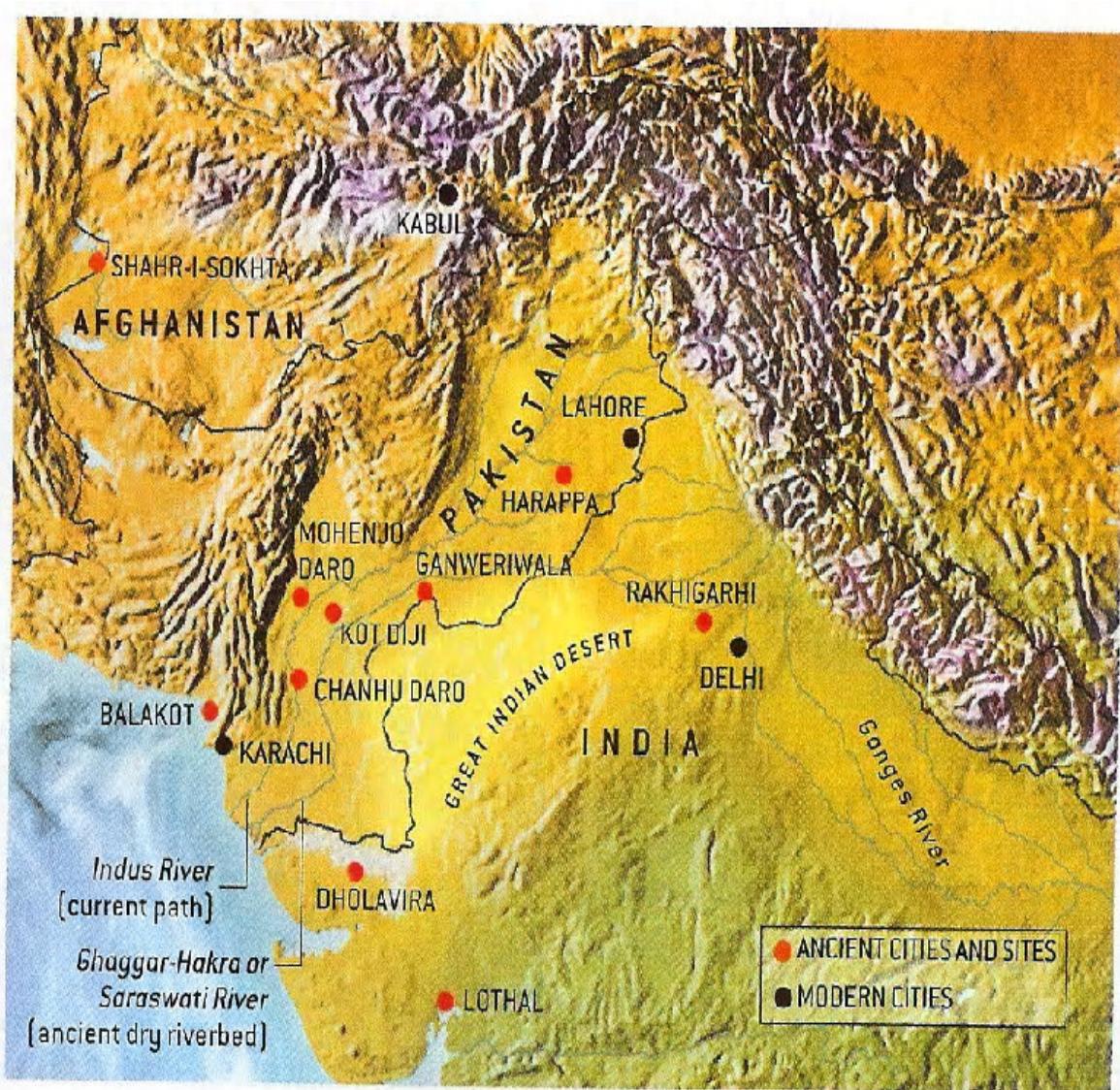


Dating back at least 5000 years, civilization in India has been a rich and complicated mix of peoples and religions. Harappa and Mohenjodaro were ancient Indian cities which existed between 3000 to 1500 BC. The Gupta dynasty ruled over a golden age for north India for about two hundred years (320-544 A.D.). In the 600s, the Indus River Valley was invaded by Arabs, who brought with them Islam, which took hold in northern India. The Sultanate of Delhi was established in 1206. In 1526, Babur established the Moghul empire, whose culture thrived under Akbar the Great. British rule in India began in the AD 1700s. Foreign domination engendered Indian nationalism, which eventually led to India winning its independence in 1947.



- 6000km. Journey of Bha\_rata in 40-50 m. years
- Each of these are areas of geologically recent (less than 100 million years) mountain building associated with Plate Tectonics. In addition to providing cool, moist homes for glaciers, mountains also have affected the climate of the Earth. Mountains cause disturbances in airflow, altering global circulation patterns.





NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, JUNE 2000





**Scientists now want to explore the possibility that the city was submerged following the last Ice Age. If this proves correct, it would date the settlement at more than 5,000 years old.**



April 11, 2002



Fourth Century AD



The pillar is a solid shaft of iron sixteen inches in diameter and 23 feet high. What is most astounding about it is that it has never rusted even though it has been exposed to wind and rain for centuries! The pillar defies explanation, not only for not having rusted, but because it is apparently made of pure iron, which can only be produced today in tiny quantities by electrolysis! The technique used to cast such a gigantic, solid pillar is also a mystery, as it would be difficult to construct another of this size even today. The pillar stands as mute testimony to the highly advanced scientific knowledge that was known in antiquity, and not duplicated until recent times. Yet still, there is no satisfactory explanation as to why the pillar has never rusted!

(source: [Technology of the Gods: The Incredible Sciences of the Ancients - By David Hatcher Childress](#) p. 80).

Professor Ahmad Hasan Dani



## Guide to Historic Taxila – Chapter III

(7<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. to 8<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.)

**Taxila University** – the oldest university in the world, before the time of Buddha

Philosophers gathered here to have their own schools of thoughts and imparted instructions

Instructions in military science, medicine, political science, philosophy, religion, language, literature, and grammar

Among famous products – Jotipala, Commander-in-Chief of the Banaras King Jivaa

- A physician of the Magadhan King, Bimbisara
- Physician of Buddha
- King Prasanjita of Kosala, modern Ayodhya
- Prince Chandragupta, founder of the Mauryan empire
- Panini, the great grammarian of 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.
- Kautilya, author of Arthashastra, a book of political science
- Charaka, a great physician of all time
- Paatanjali, author of Yoga sutras

# INDIA – Diversity of Contributions

- **Language** – Samskrit, the mother of Indo-European languages
- **Education** – Taxila, the oldest university, 700 BC.
- **Mathematics** – Numbers (0, 1, ..9), decimal, exponents, trigonometry, etc.
- **Astronomy** – Planetary calculations
- **Health sciences** – Ayurveda, the holistic healthcare science
- **Philosophy** – Six schools of thoughts, including Yoga
- **Chemistry and Metallurgy** – London bridge steel from India
- **Art and Music** – 80,000 named raagas (tunes), several elaborate systems of classical dances

# INDIA and its Contributions

- **We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made!" -- Albert Einstein**
- **"If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India!" --French scholar Romaine Rolland**
- **"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grand mother of tradition. Our most valuable and most astrinctive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only!" --Mark Twain**
- **"So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone, either by man or nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his rounds. Nothing seems to have been forgotten, nothing overlooked." --Mark Twain**

# The Magazine - India Abroad

## 11/23/01 Arthur J Pais

the magazine

India Abroad November 23, 2001 M5

### ■ DIMENSIONS ■



ARTHUR J PAIS

# Looking east from Grand Canyon

**Arthur J Pais**  
explores the natural  
monument's Indian  
connection

■ The 7,529-foot high Vishnu Temple  
is a formation known as a butte

east of Vishnu Temple — the Rama Shrine.

Writer George Wharton James, continuing Dutton's tradition named a peak after Manu, the ancient lawgiver, in 1906. It is 7,192 ft high.

Dutton's passion for the Grand Canyon and his literary flourish has been recognized by such well-known American writers as novelist Wallace Stegner who was also a naturalist.

'Dutton loved a grand view, a sweeping panorama,' wrote Stegner in *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian*. 'What others loved to paint the big, spectacular, colorful view Dutton loved to describe. And like a painter, his drift was constantly away from the meticulous and toward the suggestive.'

Such a passionate person would not certainly go for mundane names.

Of the 7,650-foot Shiva Temple, Dutton wrote: 'It is the grandest of all buttes and the most majestic in aspect, though not the most ornate. The summit looks down into the dark depths of the inner abyss. All around it are side gorges sunk to a depth nearly as profound as the main channel. It stands in the midst of a great throng of cloister-like buttes, with the same noble profiles and strong lineaments as those immediately before us, with a plexus of awful chasms between.'

'In such a stupendous scene of wreck it seems as if the fabled 'Destroyer' might find an abode not wholly uncongenial,' he observed.

When Dutton came across geological formations that looked like

Contd..

# Will Durant, (1885-1981)

## American historian

"India was the motherland of our race, and Sanskrit the mother of Europe's languages: she was the mother of our philosophy; mother, through the Arabs, of much of our mathematics; mother, through the Buddha, of the ideals embodied in Christianity; mother, through the village community, of self-government and democracy. Mother India is in many ways the mother of us all."

**SOUTHCOASTTODAY.COM**

## **Yoga retreats bring out the best in body, soul**

*By Susan Spano, Los Angeles Times 8/12/01*



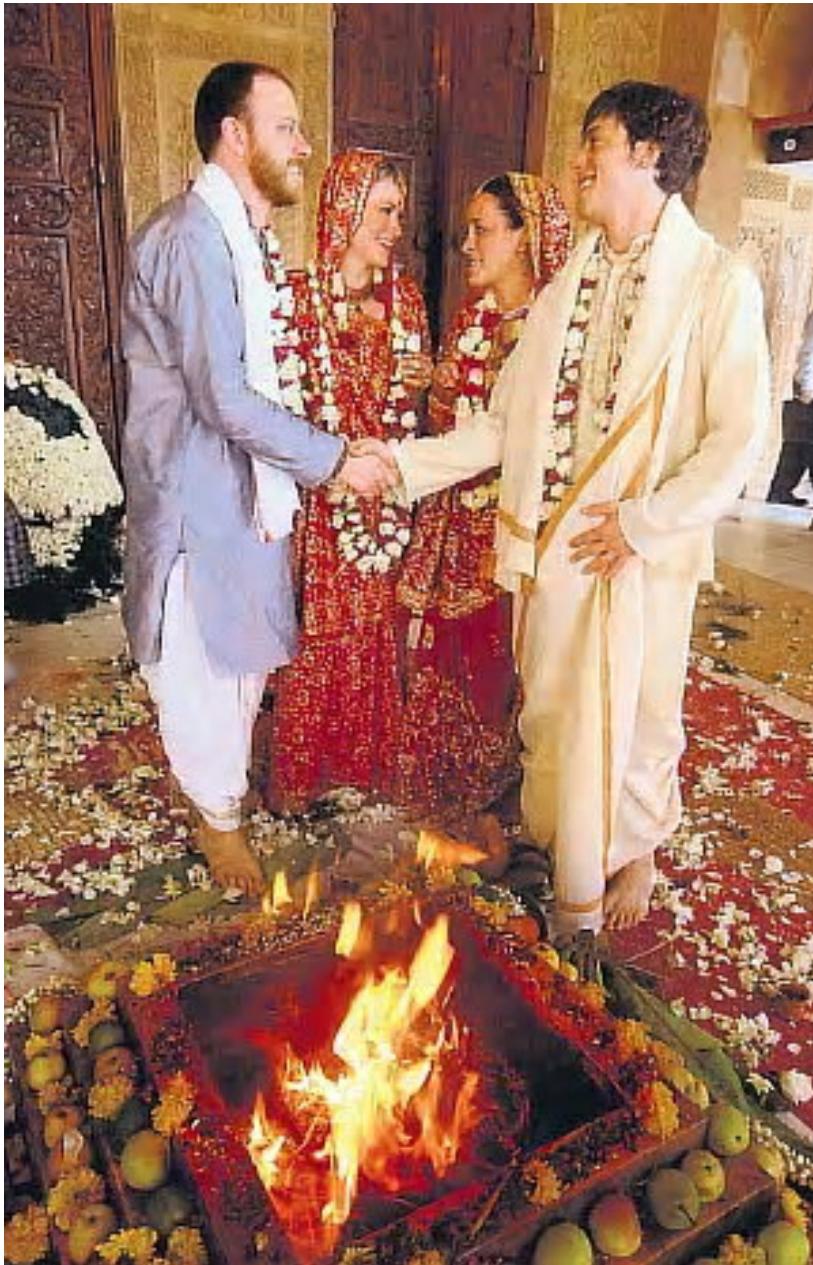
The Inner Harmony Yoga Retreat offers sweeping panoramas of the Great Basin to the west and Utah's Brian Head ski resort to the east.

Printed from

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Yoga 'couples' fly in from US to get married

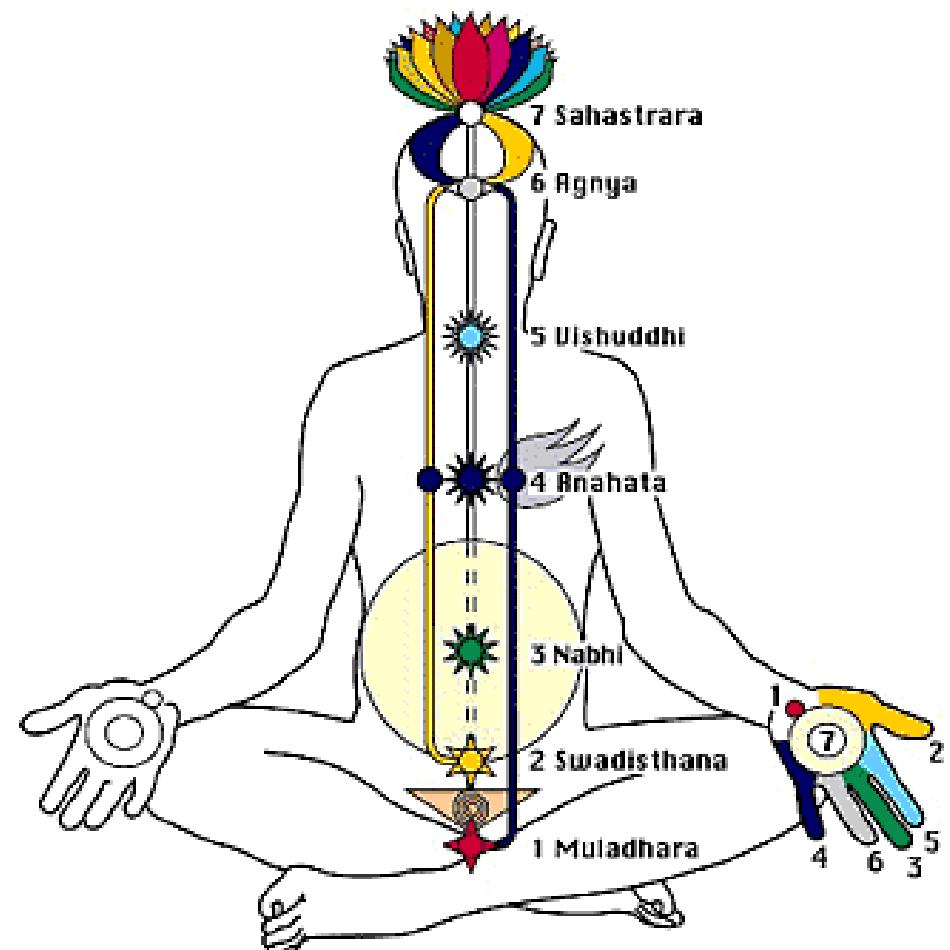
Viju B, TNN 6 October 2009, 04:02am IST

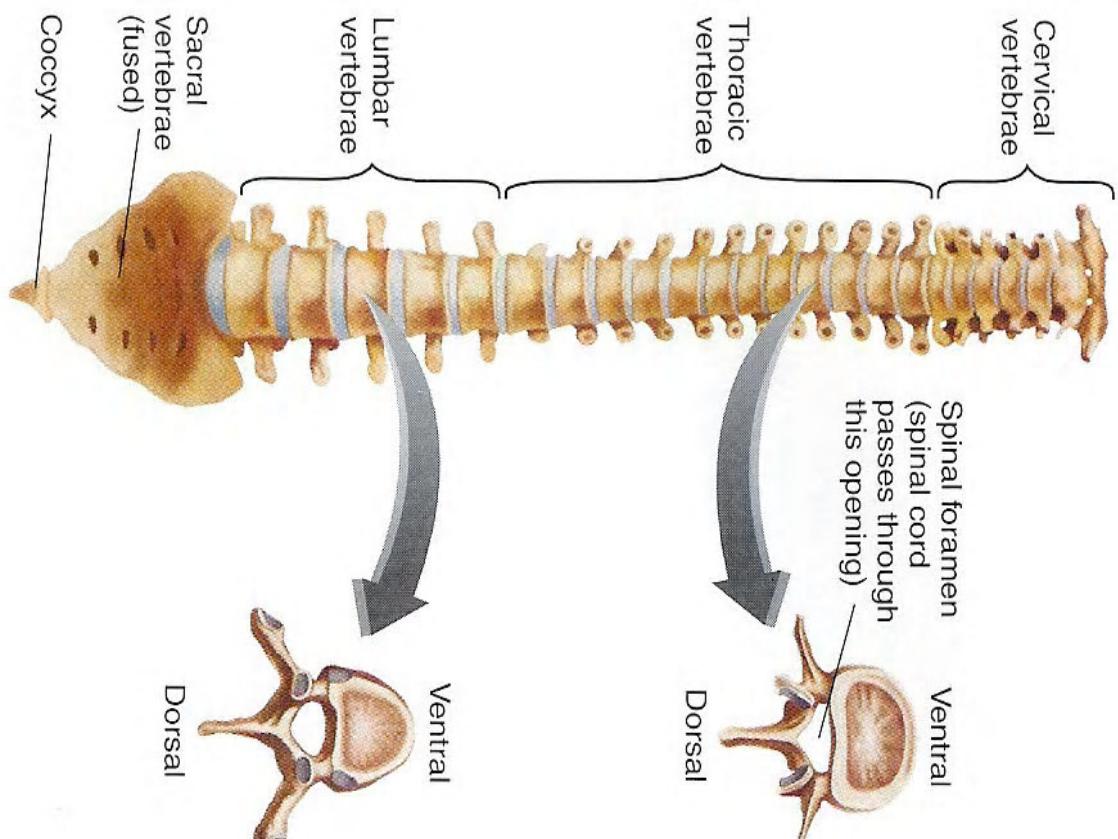


**Mark Tevze with Amy Pearce and Melinda Pizzano with T J Macchiaroli. (TOI Photo)**

# Seven – Chakras in the body (Energy centers)

- (1), Muladhara
- (2) Swadishtana
- (3) Manipuraga
- (4), Anahata
- (5). Vishuddi
- (6) Ajnai and
- (7) Lotus Sahasrara  
or Crown Chakra.





**FIGURE 3.17**

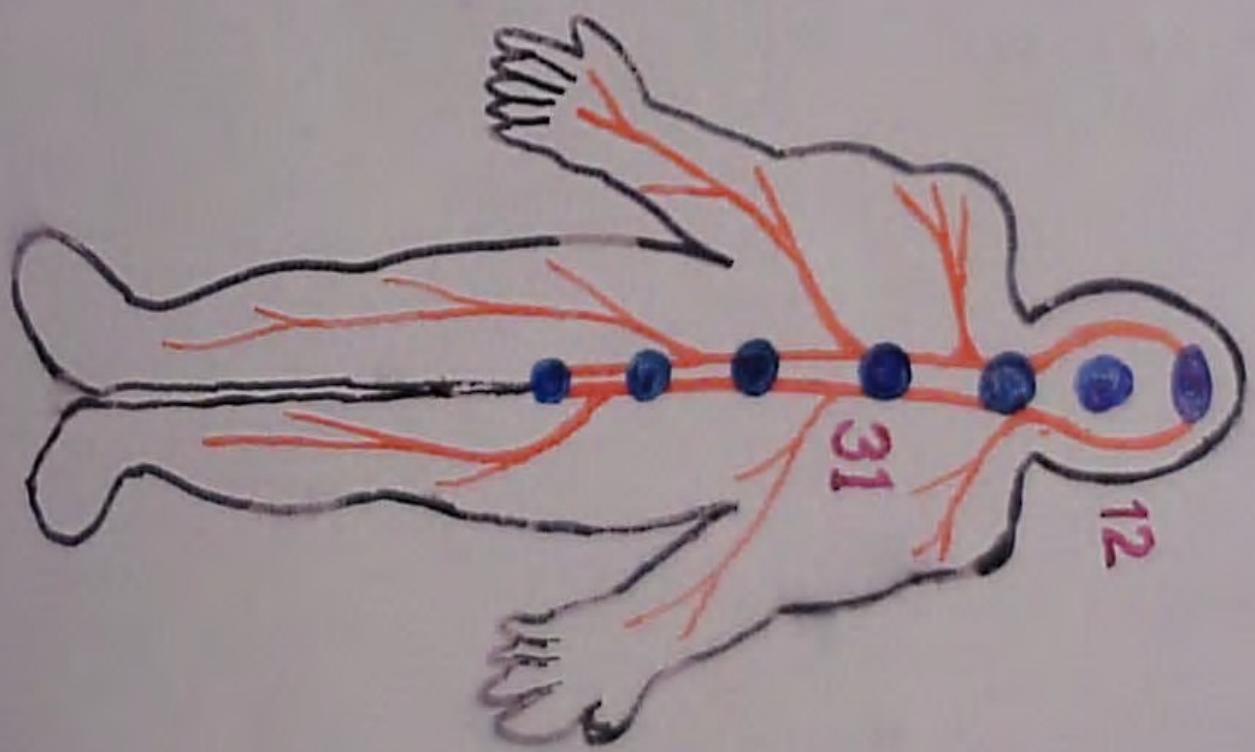
A ventral view of the human spinal column, with details showing the anatomy of the vertebrae.

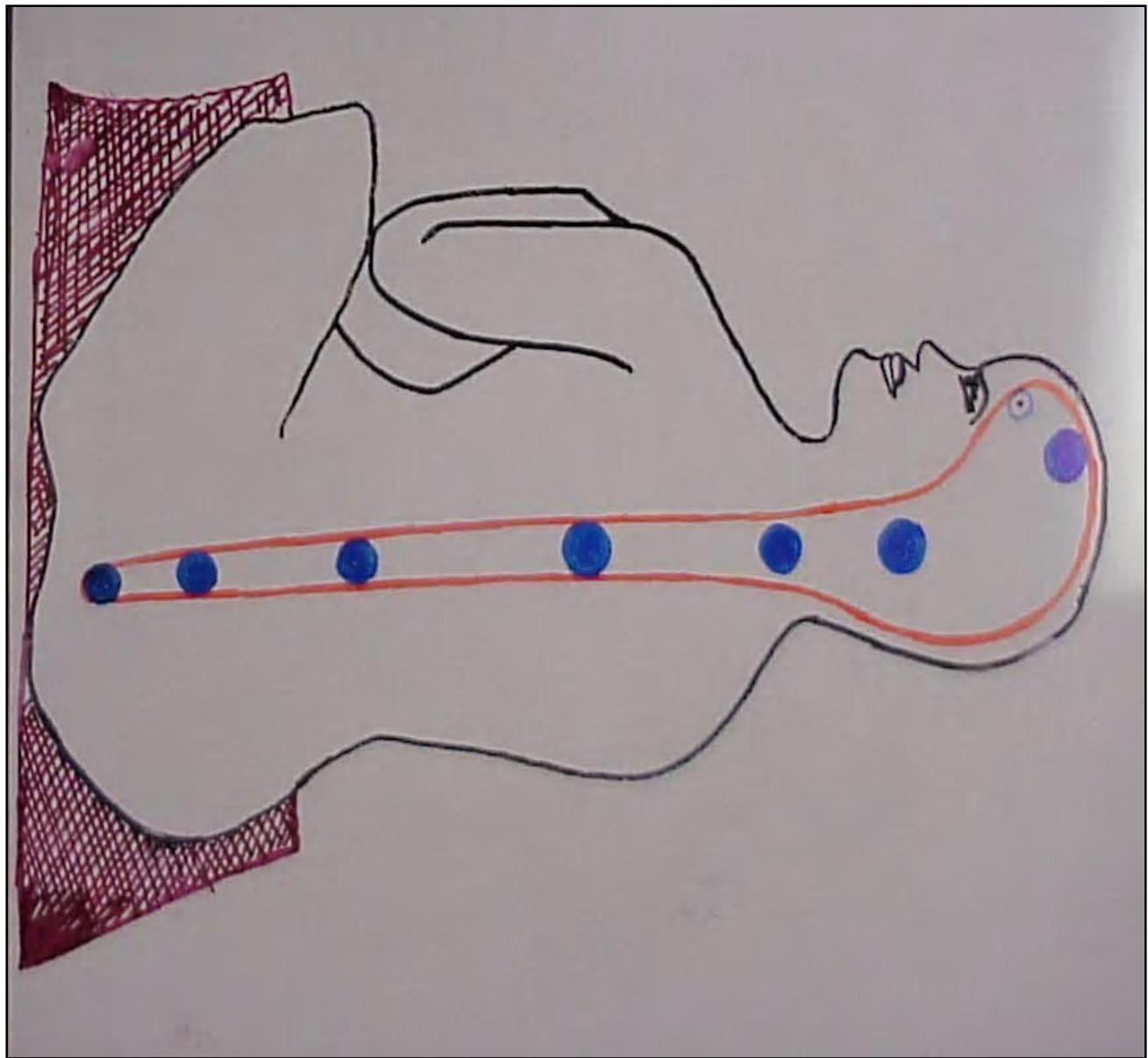
# *Yoga* the power of

**TIME**  
ONLINE EDITION

Sunday, Apr. 15, 2001







# Ancient Practice of Yoga

- Buddha - 563 BCE
- Four noble truths – life involves suffering, desire is the cause, elimination of desire ends suffering, living by 8-fold path ends desire.
- 8-fold path – balance and moderate, reject devotion to luxury, reject extreme ascetism.
- right belief, right resolve, right speech, right behavior, right occupation, right effort, contemplation, meditation.
- Karma and Dharma.



# Origin of Yoga

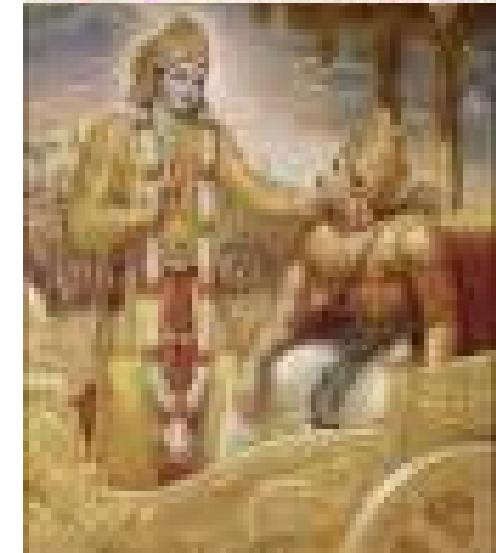
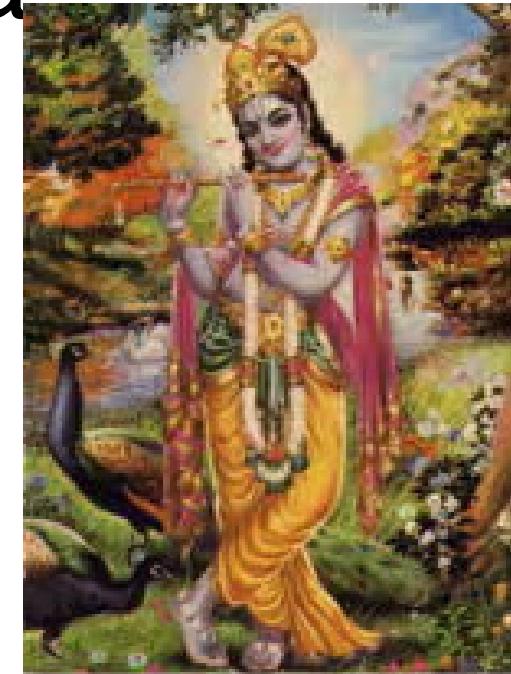
- In the valley of the River Indus, a team of archaeologists under Sir Mortimer Wheeler discovered the remains of a civilization, which is now acknowledged to be approximately five thousand years old. Amongst the valued artifacts discovered were a number of seals depicting horn-capped figures sitting in positions which are advanced Yogic postures. The most famous of these seals is that of an ithyphallic deity now recognized as Shiva.



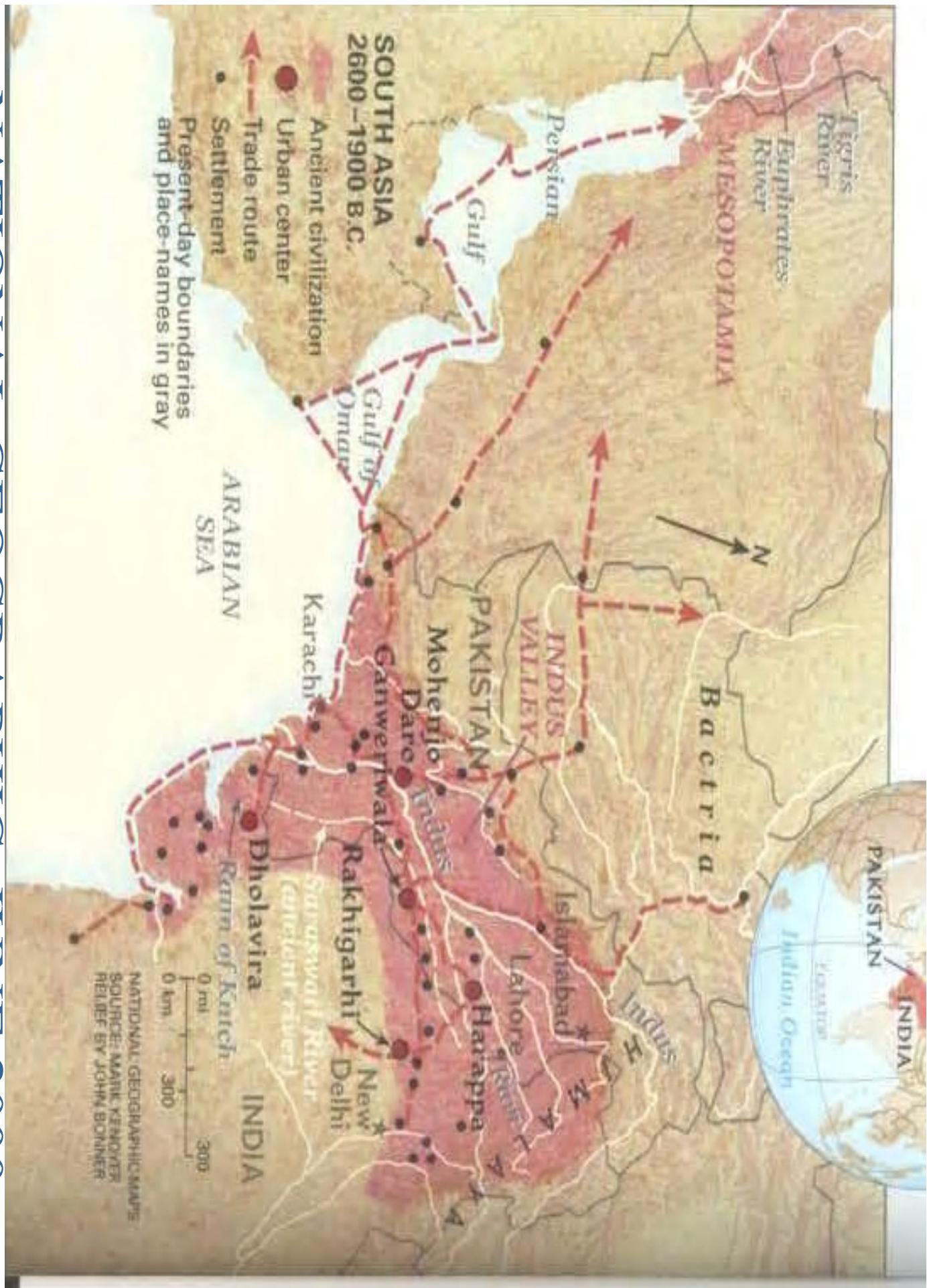
# Origin of Yoga

## Bhagavad Gita: (scripture of Hindus)

Yoga techniques – from **Supreme Power** to Sun, from **Sun** to Manu, and from **Manu** to rest of **humanity**.



# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, JUNE 2000





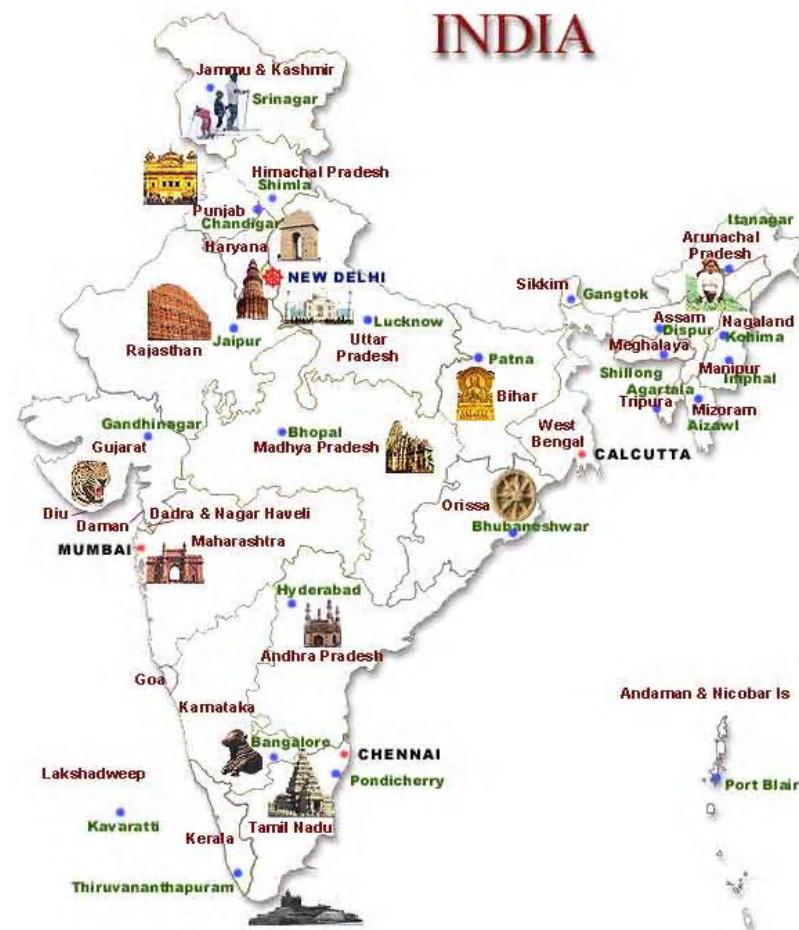
# INDIA at a Glance

- Population – 1.1 billion
  - Male, 549.4 million;  
Female, 515.5 million
  - Rural, 72%; Urban, 28%
- Area – 3.3 million sq. Km
- 29 states + 7 union territories
- GDP- \$2.9 trillion  
(purchasing power parity)



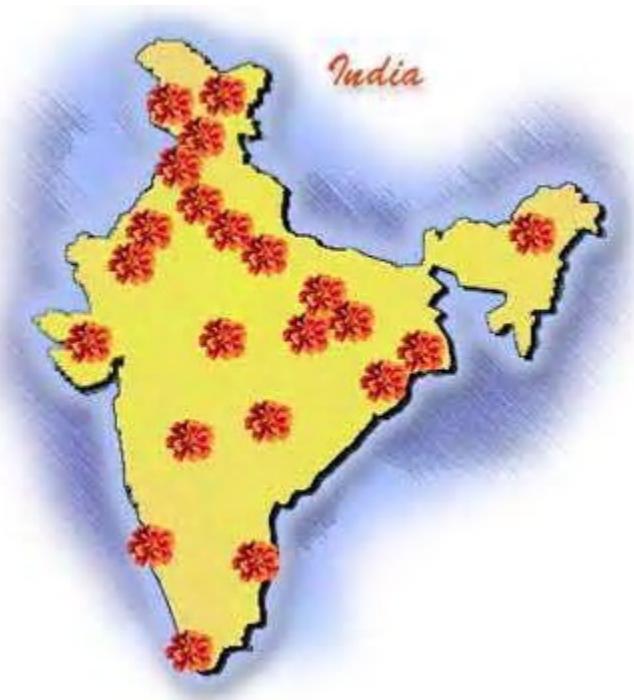
# INDIA at a Glance – social and political diversity

- Largest democracy in the world
- Parliamentary form of democratic government
- Current Prime Minister – Man Mohan Singh (a sikh)
- Immediate President – Abdul Kalaam (a Muslim)
- Current President – Mrs. Pratibha Patil
- Over 50 political parties, including communist parties
- 2 states headed by women politicians
- 4 major political parties, including the ruling party, headed by women



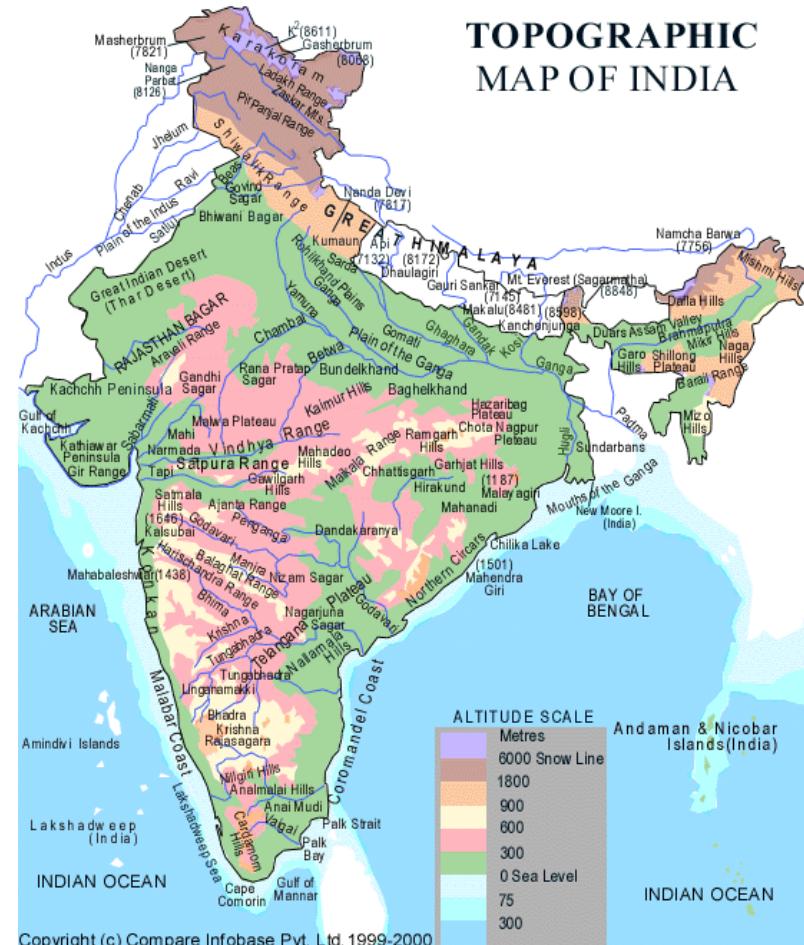
# INDIA at a Glance – human diversity

- 9 religions
  - Hindu, 81%; Muslim, 12%; Christian, 2%; Sikhs, 2%; Buddhist, 1%; Jain, 1%; Others (Parsi, B'hai, Jewish), 1%
- Over 68,000 jaatis (castes)
- 18 official languages, over 1,600 dialects
- National language – Hindi, second largest spoken language in the world
- 17 official national holidays (more holidays for schools)



# INDIA at a Glance - Modernization

- Fourth largest world economy
- Top 10 industrial output
- Member of 6-nation space club
- Member of 7-nation nuclear club
- 4<sup>th</sup> largest standing army
- Second largest scientists and engineers



# INDIA – Natural Diversity

- 6 clear seasons
- Highest elevation of Himalayas on one end, and ocean on the other
- 75,000 species of animals, 45,000 species of plants
- Deserts, mountains, rivers, fertile plains
- Spices
- Fruits



# INDIA - Festivals

- National average over one a month
- Diwali, Holi, Eid, Muharram, Baisakhi, Buddha Purnima, Mahavir Jayanti, Dussehra, Navaratri, Onam, Pongal, Naag Panchami, Janmasthami, Ram Navami
- Family and individuals – average once a week





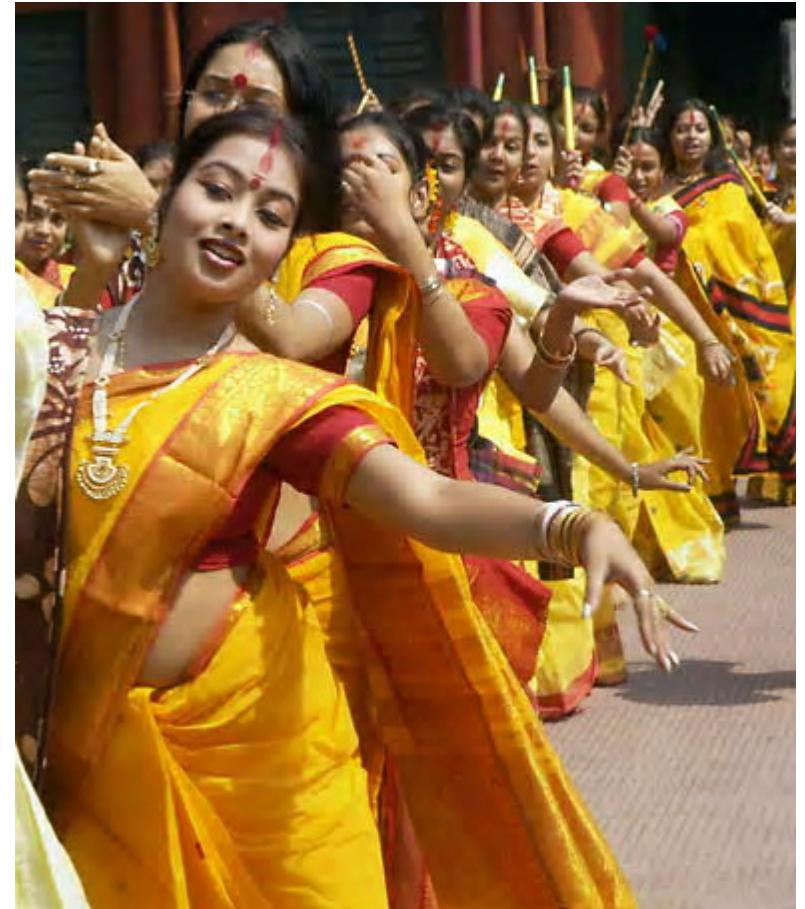
Holi 2007. Jagran





Women beat a sadhu during the traditional 'Chari Holi' in Gokul village, Mathura during the week-long Holi festival.

March 1, 2007. HT



Vasantotsav being celebrated at  
Ravindra Bharti University in Kolkata.

March 1, 2007. Jagran



A foreigner participating  
in Ardh Kumbh at Sangam

January 4, 2007



January 14, 2007

Jagran

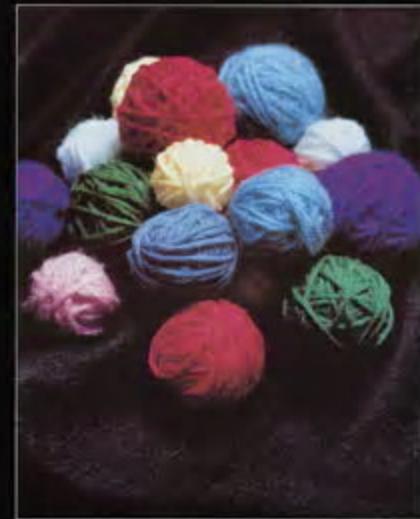


Not a single untoward incident took place. No epidemic, no riots. Many were 'lost' but helped to be 'found' again.



**It is the duty of every cultured man or woman to read sympathetically the scriptures of the world. If we are to respect others' religions as we would have them respect our own, a friendly study of the world's religions...**

## DIVERSITY



*Strength is not only in the similarities, but also in the differences.*

# Basic Traditional Values

- *Swatantrata and Moksha*- Independence and Freedom
- *Ahimsa Parmodharmah* (Non-violence is the highest virtue)
- *Satyameva Jayate* (Pursuit of Truth)
- *Vasidhaiva Kutumbakam* (The whole planet is a family)
- *Ekam sat viprah vadanti* (Truth is one sages call it with different names)



Commerce Consul at New York welcoming Indira Nooyi, Pepsi CEO, at Republic Day celebration on January 26, 2006. Jagran



**Sikh families from England enjoy "langar" at Darbar Sahib in Lahore on Wednesday. Hundreds of Sikhs have come to Pakistan to attend Gurpurb celebrations.**

— AP/PTI

### **Sati Savitri: Eternal Hindu woman**



JUNE 26, 2006

# INDIA INC.

Why the  
world's biggest  
democracy is the  
next great economic  
superpower—and what it  
means for America

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*By Ron THE EXECUTIVE*  
*Plot, Plot, Plot, Plot, Plot,*  
*Subway*  
Sisterland

[www.time.com](http://www.time.com) AOL Keyword: TIME

# Gandhi on Truth and humanity

- When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible but in the end, they always fall - think of it, ALWAYS.
- The things that will destroy us are: politics without principle; pleasure without conscience; wealth without work; knowledge without character; business without morality; science without humanity; and worship without sacrifice.



June 26, 2004





October 10 at 3 PM  
Main Auditorium





[www.umassd.edu/indic](http://www.umassd.edu/indic)