

BALABHADRA SKILL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
SPOKEN ENGLISH PRACTICE LESSON – 28
OPINION ON INDIA

Ancient India had rich social, cultural, economic and scientific heritage. The great sages and rishis were fore runners of Indian knowledge system. The sages include - **Saptarishi** (Brahmarishis Kasyapa, Jamadagni, Gautama, Bharadvaja, Visvamitra, Vasishtha and Atri), Maharshi Bhrigu, Maharshi Sakti, Maharshi Parashar, etc. The knowledge system was further developed by Panini, Chanakya, Charak, Nagarjun, Patanjali, Bhaskaracharya, Aryabhat, Varahamihir, etc. The western scientists, philosophers and historians have appreciated the land mark contribution of India in different fields.

1. **Counting.** “We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worth while scientific discovery could have been made.”– Albert Einstein, Nobel Laureate & Physicist

2. **Mother India.**

“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.”

– **Will Durant, American Historian**

“India is the cradle of the human race, the birth place of human speech, the mother of the history, grand mother of legend and the great grand mother of traditions. Our most valuable and most constructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.”

– **Mark Twain, American Writer**

“If there is one place on the face of this 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.”

– **Romain Rolland, Nobel Laureate & French Philosopher**

3. **Scientific Discoveries.**

“ Many of the advances in the sciences that we consider today to have been made in Europe were in fact made in India centuries ago.”

– **James Grant Duff, Scottish Soldier & Historian**

“I am convinced that everything has come down to us from the banks of the Ganga, astronomy, astrology, metempsychosis, etc. It does not behoove us, who were only savages and barbarians when these Indians and Chinese people were civilized and learned.”

– **Voltaire, French Enlightenment Writer & Reformer**

4. **Surgery.** “Indian surgery remained ahead of European until the 18th Century, when the surgeons of the East India Company were not ashamed to learn the art of rhinoplasty from the Indians.”

–A.L.Basham, The Wonder That Was India, 1971, British Historian

5. **Salvation for Mankind/Sustainable Human Civilisation.** “It is already becoming clearer that a chapter which has a western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self-destruction of the human race. At this supremely dangerous moment in history, the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way.”

– Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee, British Historian

6. **Ethics and Logic.** “Whatever sphere of the human mind you may select for your special study, whether it be language, or religion, or mythology, or philosophy, whether it be laws or customs, primitive art or primitive science, everywhere, you have to go to India, whether you like it or not, because some of the most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India, and in India only.”

– Max Müller, German Philologist & Orientalist

7. **Indian Classical Arts.** “The ancient art is that deep feeling of being himself an integrated part of the cosmos and participating in all its categories and elements, a feeling acquired by innumerable generations in uncounted centuries of meditative experience.”

– Alice Boner, Swiss Art Historian

8. **Biswa Guru.** “Where else can we look for sages like those whose systems of philosophy were prototypes to whose works Plato, Thales & Pythagorus were disciples? Where do I find astronomers whose knowledge of planetary systems yet excites wonder in Europe as well as the architects and sculptors whose works claim our admiration, and the musicians who could make the mind oscillate from joy to sorrow, from tears to smile with the change of modes and varied intonation?”

- Colonel James Todd (British East India Company) said of India: