

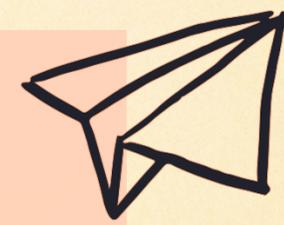


TRAVEL DIARY

MY TRIP TO INDIA 2020

By Mélanie Hervé





Day 1

HI GUYS !



Hi guys! I took the plane in London to Mumbai at 7:34 am, the flight lasted 9 hours and 28 minutes. It was so long, but i was so excited that I could not sleep ! There are more than 4486.92 miles between London and Mumbai. When I arrived in the airport I could not believe that I was in India, I am so far away but it's time to go and discover India !



Firstly, let's begin with a few geographical facts. India is one of the largest countries in South Asia. India is the second most populated country in the world after China.



Day 1

More than one billion people live here. The first day in Mumbai i did not know where i could walk, the traffic wasi so thick between cars, buses and people i was lost !





Day 2



HELLO EVERYONE

This morning I admired the flag of India. The flag of this country is composed of three orange, white and green stripes with a blue circle, the name chakra Ashoka, in the middle of it on the white strip. I asked a man in the street to explain me the meaning of this flag. The man told me that orange represented the Hindu, color of bravery and sacrifice. White showed unity and peace. Finally green represented islam and the symbol of faith and honor. He told me the importance of the flag for him, the flag highlighted the peace between main religions of the country on the one hand Hindu and on the other hand Muslim.

Day 3



Hey !

Today I passed in front of a school where the children were singing a beautiful song. A mother of one of these children was watching them, I asked her what the song was. India, which is called “Jana Gana Mana” in Bengali, Indian Language. So, are you wondering what language I spoke during my trip ? I don't speak Hindi ! It's simple, for three centuries India was a British colony. So, since 1947 when India became independent, two languages have been spoken; Hindi and English. I'm saved !!

Day 4

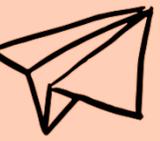


Howdy

Today the school in my street is showing different movies to the children. The mother I met, Amoda asked me if I wanted to come watch traditional Indian movies. In the world India plays an important part in global technology industry situated in Mumbai, often known as “Bollywood”. The Indian cinema has an output of 1,986 feature films in 2017. I came to see a traditional Hindi film, which I didn’t understand, but the story was very interesting. The music, the story and the dancing was totally different from movies I can watch in England. I learnt a little bit of Indian culture.



Day 5



Hello!

I spent five days visiting Mumbai. Today I will recap what I visited. So Mumbai is the economic capital of India more than 24 million inhabitants live in the Mumbai region. I visited the old part of the city which is called Colaba where the first people settled.

Then, I could see the Gateway of India, this monument built in 1911 to commemorate the arrival of King George V and Queen Marie. It was a very popular place in Mumbai. It's crazy because I came to discover another culture but I found mine!



Monument | MUMBAI | 2020

DAY 5

I admired the architecture of the hotel “ The Taj Mahal Palace” built in 1903 ...



Monument | MUMBAI | 2020



and saw the Rajabai Clock Tower built in 1870. It reminds me of Big Ben in London but it is not the same temperature !





In the afternoon, i visited Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, the principal museum in Mumbai. A lot of paintings, drawings, photos and sculptures illustrate the history of the city. Mumbai is a beautiful city which contrasts both, the new and the historical periods of India.



DAY 6

What's up !

I left Mumbai to go to the capital New Delhi ! The journey lasted 17 hours by bus because the plane was too expensive. So, that way i could see the Indian countryside of India. In Mumbai i spent time with "wealthy" people because I was a tourist in the best part of the city. India is a country where the population is composed of castes a pyramidal structure. The difference between these castes has created a lot of inequality. In 1950, the Indian constitution in theory recognized equality between all Indians, and forbade the discrimination based on religion, sex and caste was abolished. The reality is very different !



Life in the countryside is miserable. I recognised the difference between my British life and theirs. In the west we complain because we don't have wifi, the latest iPhone, the latest sneakers, the latest make-up, but here they don't even have food. I knew that before coming in but seeing it with own eyes was very difficult for me. I did not know what to say or how to help them. I saw the real India touched by famine, meager wages which are meager and long, hard work.



When the bus stopped for two hours, I talked to women in the village. They did not speak English but we could communicate with sign language. One of these women made Saries for the village women. Some of these women went to fetch water from the well at the entrance to the village. I went with them and tried to carry a jar on my head, but it was so difficult for me. When I took my hands off the jar it fell ! The women laughed at me. They told me they learnt to wear a sari at the age of two. I spent a good moment with them. We understood each other without speaking the same language.



Day 7

Yo !,I am on the bus to Agra. I have a seven-hours journey on the bus today, so this is the opportunity to tell you about the difficulty of being a woman in India. To be expect a daughter, it is a real problem for the couples. If they want to get married, girls must pay a dowry.

When woman is expecting a baby girl, the family knows they must pay expensive dowry. This is a cultural problem which is worse for families with several daughters, sometimes leadins to abortion. I can understand the decision, but this can be tragic for poor women who resort to self or illegal abortion.



Day 8



Hello everyone !

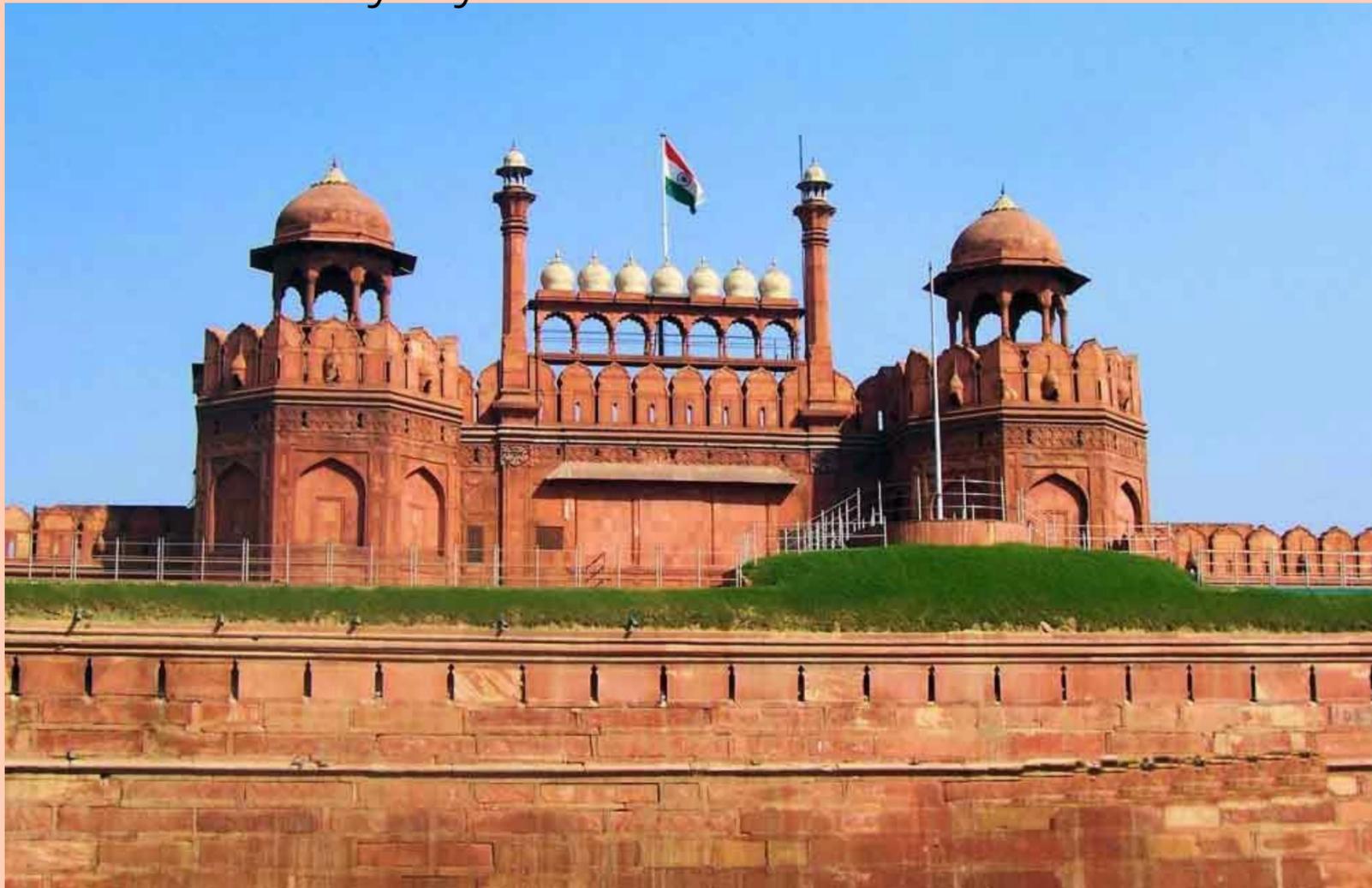
Today, i visited the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (reigned from 1628 to 1658) to house the tomb of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal; it also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan himself. The palace was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 for being "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage". It is regarded by many as the best example of Mughal architecture and a symbol of India's rich history.



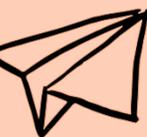
DAY 9

Hi !

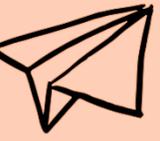
This morning I began the visit of New Delhi, the Capital of India which has a lot of monument. New Delhi is a new town built in 20th century by the British.



First, I visited a lot of monuments. First time i visited a famous royal palace "Lal Qil'ah" built in the 17th century.



Day 9



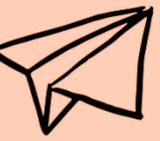
I saw the "Raj Ghat", a tombstone where Gandhi was cremated in 1948

The "Jama masjid" is a typical and traditional mosque.

And a lot of monuments...!!



Day 10



Yeah !

So today, I tasted Indian food ! During this trip i could taste the food in India, so my favorite dish is Murg Makhani (butter chicken) it is delicious.

My second dish is tandoori chicken, that famous Indian barbecue chicken recipe.



DAY 10

Malai kofta is the vegetarian dish made with potatoes, carrots, beans, peas, and sweet corn. So if your vegetarian it's not a problem to eat in India !

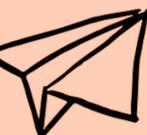


DAY 10

The paneer is a dish super healthy because is just spinach with cheese and some Indian spices.



Naan is a staple in the Indian kitchen because it made with simple ingredients: yeast, flour, sugar, and water, as well as yogurt and ghee. So it is very simple to make it and it really good !



Day 11: Animals in India

Hello !

Cows are sacred in India. For Hindu cows can walk on the street freely because it symbolise life, fertility, prosperity and represent the god Krishna. I found it wierd that because when I walked in the street people could pray next to cows. Obviously it forbidden to kill cow because it is considered like a sin.



Day 11



The elephant represents God but particularly Ganesh the god of wisdom and knowledge. Elephants have an important place for Indians.



Day 11



Cobras are sacred in India because of the connection of the goddess Shiva so so that's why you can see people who play an instrument to make the cobra dance.



Day 12



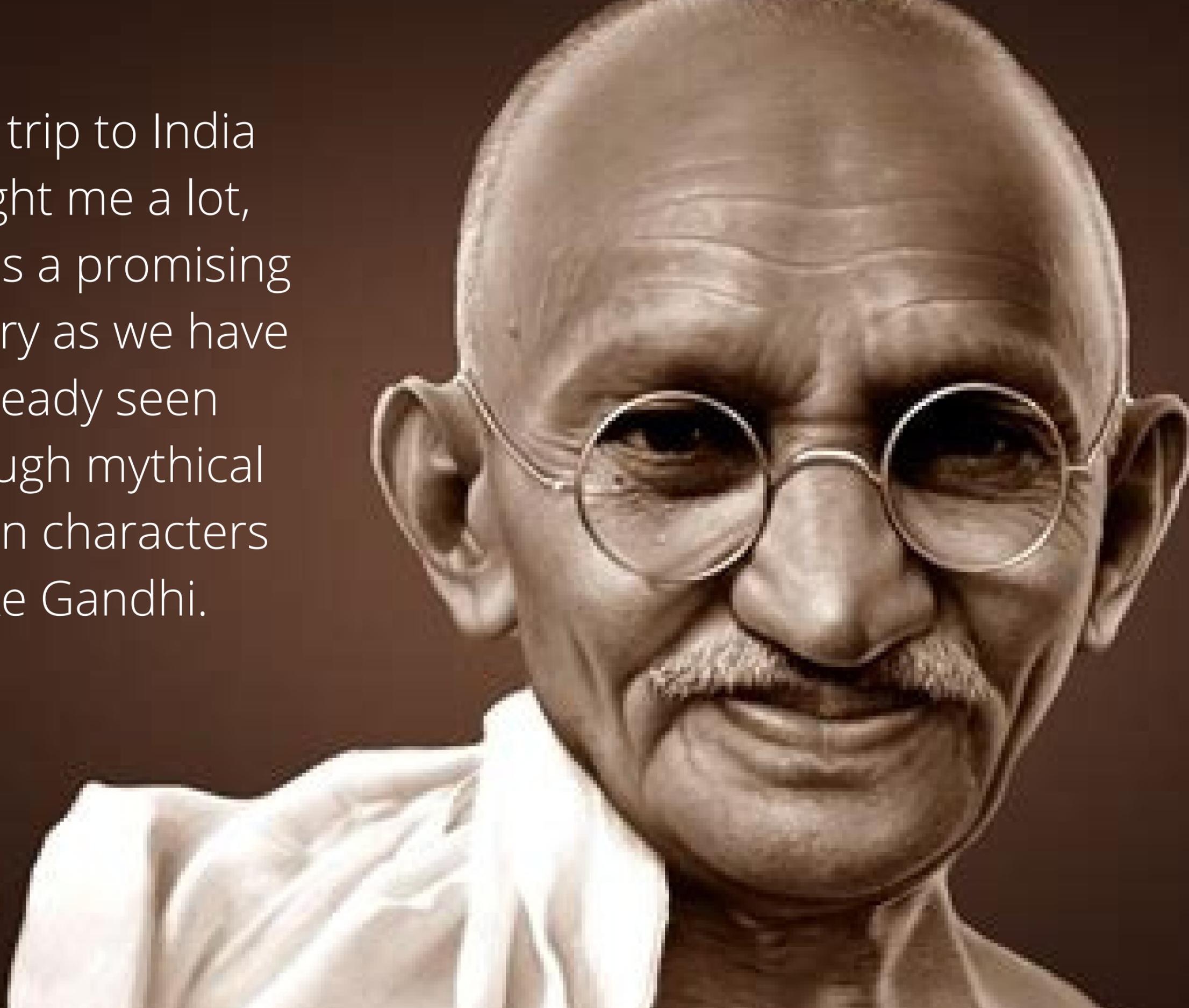
Hi ! Today it is my last day India. I'm taking plane in 2 hours. To recap my trip in India, I met people very nice with a lot of kindness, the landscape are splendid with a lot of colors, the architecture of the monuments are breathtaking.



But but we must not forget that India is a country with a lot of inequalities. The traditions, the culture are really different from the western world so you should not expect to find all the comfort that you can find in London for example.



This trip to India
taught me a lot,
India is a promising
country as we have
already seen
through mythical
Indian characters
like Gandhi.





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END 2020

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