

East meets West in your newest selection of exotic Lotta stamps - both Literally and politically. Where the western continent of Europe and the eastern continent of Asia met. stands the noisy, chaotic, exciting city of Istanbul)... For 16 centuries this city, orce known as Constantinople, played a major role in world politics, first as capital of the vast Byzantine Empire, and then as capital of the Ottoman Empire, the most powerful Islamic empire the world has ever known. Today it remains the largest sity is another the set of the set

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India is a fascinating country which, until 1947, was part of British India.) At that time, it was divided into two separate nations, due to the religious differences of its inhabitants. Most Hindus now live in India, while most Moslems live in neighboring Pakistan. India's heritage is an ancient one, beginning around 4000 B.C. It has been dominated for long periods of its history by the Portuguese, Dutch and finally the British from the late 17th century until Independence.

Only six countries in the world are larger than India, but few are is crushed. It is estimated that use is wight propie in the world lives in Trola? The second of Indian people is in the second of furne visions is in the second are located in a second of indian is farmiand the second of indian is farmiand for second of the test farmiand follows the same of the test farmiant follows the same of the test farmiant follows the same of the test farmiant follows the same of the test farming for the farming of the test farming for the farming of the test farming follows the same of the test farming follows the test farming fol

The great Himalaya Mountains border northern India too, and some tea is raised on the lower slopes of these mountains. The mountain slopes are also covered with The mountain slopes and other wild animals jungle, where tigers and other wild animals live.

Most wealthy and educated Hindu people live in the big seaport cities of Calcutta,

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Bombay and Madras. These cities are located on the Indian Ocean, which got its name from the country. India extends far out into this ocean of very calm, warm water. Its waters extend from southern Asia, where India lies, all the way to the continent of Antarctica!

The rural people of India are still very poor. They live in mud-brick homes, and generally eat rice and vegetables. Sometimes they have milk from the family goat or cow, and the children gather dried cattle manure for fuel to cook and heat with. Cooking and eating utensils used are often made by the village potter, who spins his wheel by hand, squatting next to it on the ground outside his shop. Indian poitery and brass bowls and urns are also hand made and exported from India.

Farming methods are rather primitive, too. Farmers still use many wooden hand tools, and ox-drawn carts to bring their farm produce in from the fields. The government has been working to improve farming methods for many years.

The enclosed stamps from our featured Lotta reflect its rich culture and history. Some of the stamps will depict things I've told you about India. I know you'll enjoy examining them as you add them to your growing stamp collection!





















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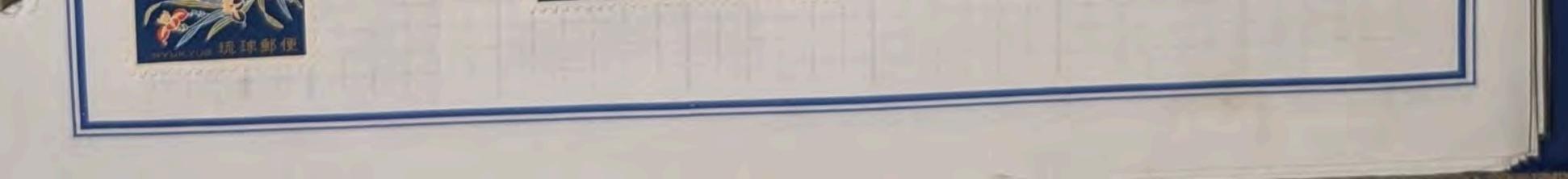






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