

Hindi transcript:

Q. Would you tell us something about the history of Punjab?

पंजाब is my state। मैं पंजाब से हूँ और पंजाब की बहुत पुरानी history रही है। पंजाब भारत के उत्तर में है और हर कोई... जो भी invaders पंजाब... जो भी invaders भारत आना चाहा... आये हैं, वो पंजाब के through ही आए हैं। पंजाब एक तरह से stepping stone था भारत में आने के लिए। और starting from Alexander, Mongols, उसके बाद Arabs, Turks... हर कोई पंजाब से होकर ही भारत आया है और उन्होंने... हर किसी ने भारत आने की कोशिश की है तो पंजाब से ही की है। इस वजह से पंजाब का एक culture अलग तरह से develop हुआ है। पंजाबी लोगों ने इतने ज्यादा invasions झेले हैं कि एक उनका तरह का character बन गया है जो कि... है कि we should live for the moment. So, ये एक पंजाबियों का characteristic... character है जो कि वो हमेशा खुश रहते हैं और हर पल को enjoy करने की कोशिश करते हैं।

उसके अलावा पंजाब की history Alexander से भी पहले की है.. history है। पंजाब Indus Valley civilization का center भी था। और जहाँ पे... जो कि पाँच हजार साल पुरानी सभ्यता है। और वहाँ पे – आजकल जो पंजाब पाकिस्तान में चला गया है – वहाँ पे ज्यादातर centers हैं Indus Valley civilizations के। So पंजाब... ही वह जगह है जहाँ पे विश्व का सबसे पुराना साहित्य – the four Vedas – create किये गये। ऋग वेद उनमें सबसे पुराना है। So पंजाब एक तरह का center है जहाँ पे न कि historical बल्कि cultural center... cultural center भी था... है। इंडिया का जहाँ से बहुत सारी अलग अलग धाराएं निकलीं।

उसके अलावा partition... British के ज़माने में भी पंजाब काफी मशहूर, काफी central था भारत की history में। पंजाबी लोग British army का बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा थे। उसके अलावा partition भी... के दौरान भी पंजाब ने बहुत ज्यादा सहा ...भारत दो हिस्सों में बँटा। पाकिस्तान आधा... आधा पंजाब पाकिस्तान में चला गया और आधा इंडिया में रह गया। So ये एक बहुत बड़ा धक्का था पंजाबी culture के लिए क्योंकि पंजाबी culture... religion के basis पे divide हो गया। और फिर भी... अभी भी पंजाब... भारतीय पंजाब

और पाकिस्तानी पंजाब में काफ़ी दोस्ताना हूँ। आजकल तो लोग भी आते हैं और हम भी... हमारे यहाँ से भी लोग काफ़ी जाते हैं।
और... अभी भी पंजाब Indian... इंडिया में काफ़ी important जगह रखता हूँ। पंजाबी लोगों की वजह से हूँ सब कुछ। हालांकि पंजाब बहुत छोटा state हूँ और उसकी population Indian population का मुश्किल से चार... चार फ़ीसदी हूँ पर फिर भी पंजाबी अपनी... अपनी enterprise की वजह से, अपने attitude की वजह से पूरे... हर तरफ़ पाये जाते हैं। और हर तरफ़ मशहूर हैं और हर तरफ़ जाने जाते हैं। और हर तरफ़ successful हैं। So, इसकी वजह से... छोटा सा... छोटा प्रदेश होते हुए भी पंजाब भारत में बहुत ही एक important role रखता हूँ।

English translation:

Q. Would you tell us something about the history of Punjab?

Punjab is my state. I am from Punjab, and Punjab has had a very old history. Punjab is in the north of India, and every one ... whatever invaders Punjab ... have wanted to come to India, have come, have come through Punjab. Punjab was a kind of stepping stone in order to enter India. And starting with Alexander, the Mongols, after that the Arabs, Turks ... everyone has been through Punjab to come into India and they ... whoever has tried to come into India has done so by way of Punjab. For this reason, Punjab's culture has developed in a different way. Punjabi people have tolerated so many invasions that in a way it has become their character which ... is that [one] should live for the moment. So this is a Punjabi characteristic ... character, which is that they are always happy and try to enjoy each moment.

Other than that, Punjab's history predates Alexander. Punjab was also the center of the Indus Valley civilization. And where ... which is a five thousand year old civilization. And there – these days it is [part of] Punjab that has gone to Pakistan – there most of the centers of the Indus Valley civilization exist. So Punjab is the place where the world's oldest literature¹ – the four Vedas – was created. The Rig Veda is the oldest of them. So Punjab is a kind of center where [it is] not only a historical but also a cultural center ... cultural center as well, of India from which many different streams² emerged.

Besides that, the Partition [of India] ... during the British rule, too, Punjab was famous... was central to Indian history. The Punjabi people were an important part of the British army. And then the Partition, too ... during [the Partition], Punjab put up with a lot. India was divided into two parts. Pakistan [was] half ... half of Punjab went to Pakistan and [the other] half remained in India. So it was a very big jolt to Punjabi culture because

¹ The Vedas are, arguably, the world's oldest texts *still in use*. Their dating, however, still remains controversial. It is perhaps safer to say that the Vedas are *one* of the oldest collections of literature.

² The speaker might mean schools of thought, or traditions.

Punjabi culture ... got divided on the basis of religion. And ... yet ... even now Punjab ... there are friendly relations between the Indian Punjab and the Pakistani Punjab. These days people come [from the Pakistani Punjab to the Indian Punjab] and we too ... quite a few people from [the Indian Punjab] also go [to the Pakistani Punjab]. And ... even now Punjab Indian ... occupies an important place in India. It is all due to the Punjabi people. Even though Punjab is a very small state and its population is hardly 4 ... 4 per cent of the Indian population, but still Punjabis ... due to their enterprise, due to their attitude are fully ... are found everywhere. And [they] are famous everywhere and are known everywhere. And they are successful everywhere. So for this reason ... a small ... in spite of being a small state, Punjab plays a very important role in India.

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