



CURRENT AFFAIRS

AND

Who's Who*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

❖ Sh. Ram Nath Kovind : President ❖ Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu : Vice-President

THE UNION COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- ♦ **Narendra Modi** : Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; and All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.
- ♦ **Dharmendra Pradhan** : Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Steel.
- ♦ **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** : Minority Affairs
- ♦ **Prahlad Joshi** : Parliamentary Affairs; Coal; and Mines

CABINET MINISTERS

- ♦ **Amit Shah** : Home Affairs
- ♦ **Rajnath Singh** : Defence
- ♦ **Nirmala Sitharaman** : Finance; and Corporate Affairs
- ♦ **Nitin Gadkari** : Road Transport and Highways; and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- ♦ **D.V. Sadananda Gowda** : Chemicals and Fertilizers
- ♦ **Narendra Singh Tomar** : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Rural Development; and Panchayati Raj Minister; Add. Ch. Food Processing Industries
- ♦ **Ravi Shankar Prasad** : Law and Justice; Communications; and Electronics and Information Technology
- ♦ **Thawar Chand Gehlot** : Social Justice and Empowerment
- ♦ **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** : External Affairs
- ♦ **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** : Education
- ♦ **Arjun Munda** : Tribal Affairs
- ♦ **Smriti Irani** : Women and Child Development; and Textiles.
- ♦ **Dr Harshvardhan** : Health and Family Welfare; Science and Technology; and Earth Sciences
- ♦ **Prakash Javadekar** : Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Infor-mation and Broadcasting minister; (Add ch.) Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
- ♦ **Piyush Goyal** : Railways; and Commerce and Industry Minister; Add. Ch. Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

- ♦ **Mahendra Nath Pandey** : Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- ♦ **Giriraj Singh** : Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

- ♦ **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** : Jal Shakti

MINISTERS OF STATE

(INDEPENDENT CHARGES)

- ♦ **Santosh Gangwar** : Labour and Employment
- ♦ **Rao Inderjit Singh** : Statistics and Programme Implementation; and Planning.
- ♦ **Shripad Yesso Naik** : Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) (Ind. Ch.); Defence.
- ♦ **Dr. Jitendra Singh** : Development of North Eastern Region (Ind. Ch.); Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Prime Minister Office.
- ♦ **Kiren Rijju** : Youth Affairs and Sports (Ind. Ch.); Minority Affairs.
- ♦ **Prahlad Singh Patel** : Culture; and Tourism
- ♦ **Raj Kumar Singh** : Power; New and Renewable Energy (Ind. Ch.); Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ♦ **Hardeep Singh Puri** : Housing and Urban Affairs; Civil Aviation (Ind. Ch.); Commerce and Industry.
- ♦ **Mansukh Mandaviya** : Shipping (Ind. Ch.); Chemicals and Fertilizers.

MINISTERS OF STATE

- ✦ **Faggan Singh Kulaste** : Steel
- ✦ **Ashwini Kumar Chaubey** : Health and Family Welfare.
- ✦ **Arjun Ram Meghwal** : Parliamentary Affairs; and Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
- ✦ **General (Retd) VK Singh** : Road Transport and Highways
- ✦ **Krishan Pal Gurjar** : Social Justice and Empowerment
- ✦ **Raosaheb Dadarao Danve** : Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- ✦ **Gangapuram Kishan Reddy** : Home Affairs
- ✦ **Purshottam Rupala** : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- ✦ **Ramdas Athawale** : Social Justice and Empowerment
- ✦ **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti** : Rural Development
- ✦ **Babul Supriyo** : Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- ✦ **Sanjeev Kumar Balyan** : Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
- ✦ **Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre** : Education; Communications; and Electronics and Information Technology.
- ✦ **Anurag Thakur** : Finance; and Corporate Affairs
- ✦ **Nityanand Rai** : Home Affairs
- ✦ **Rattan Lal Kataria** : Jal Shakti; and Social Justice and Empowerment
- ✦ **V Muraleedharan** : External Affairs; and Parliamentary Affairs
- ✦ **Renuka Singh Saruta** : Tribal Affairs
- ✦ **Som Parkash** : Commerce and Industry
- ✦ **Rameswar Teli** : Food Processing Industries
- ✦ **Pratap Chandra Sarangi** : Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
- ✦ **Kailash Choudhary** : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ✦ **Debasree Chaudhuri** : Women and Child Development

CURRENT NEWS

JOE BIDEN : 46th PRESIDENT OF THE USA

On January 20, 2021, Joseph R. Biden Jr. (Joe Biden) took oath as the 46th President of the United States of America (USA) at a ceremony organised at the West Front of the US Capitol building, Washington. 78 year old Joe Biden became the oldest President in the history of the USA. He was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts. He belongs to Democratic Party, Kamala Harris took oath as the 49th Vice-President. She is the first woman and first person with South Asian origin to take the office of Vice-President of the USA. She was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina in the US Supreme Court. She also belongs to Democratic Party. Former Presidents, Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton along with their spouses, the outgoing Vice-President Mike Pence were present during the event. Former President Trump did not attend the ceremony. Addressing the country for the first time as President, Mr. Biden delivered a message of unity and hope while laying out the enormous challenges faced by the country from a raging pandemic, deep political divisions and frayed race relations. "This is America's day. This is Democracy's day. The day of history and hope," Mr. Biden said in his inaugural address.

UNION BUDGET 2021-22

The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2021-22 in Parliament of February 1, 2021. Laying a vision for Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Finance Minister said this is an expression of 130 Crore Indians who have full confidence in their capabilities and skills. Budget proposals will further strengthen the Sankalp of 'Nation First', Doubling Farmer's Income, strong Infrastructure, Healthy Indian, Good Governance, Opportunities for Youth, Education for All, Women Empowerment, and Inclusive development among others. Additionally, also on the path to fast-implementation are the 13 promises of Budget 2021-22 which were to materialize during the Amrut Mahotsav of 2022, on the 75th year of our Independence. They too resonate with this vision of Aatma Nirbharta.

Highlights of the Budget

- **Health and Wellbeing:** Health and Wellbeing have found sharp focus and central positioning in the Union Budget 2021-22. It forms the basis of Atmanirbhar Bharat. There is a steep increase of 137 percentage in the Budget outlay for Health and Wellbeing. There is substantial increase in investment in Health Infrastructure and the Budget outlay for Health and Wellbeing is ₹ 2,23,846 crore in BE 2021-22 as against this year's BE of ₹ 94,452 crore, an increase of 137 percentage.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban):** *Universal Coverage of Water Supply and Swachh Bharat Mission—* The Finance Minister announced that the Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban), will be launched for universal water supply in all 4,378 Urban Local Bodies with 2.86 crore household tap connections, as well as liquid waste management in 500 AMRUT cities. It will be implemented over 5 years, with an outlay of ₹ 2,87,000 crore. Moreover, the Urban Swachh Bharat Mission will be implemented with a total financial allocation of ₹ 1,41,678 crore over a period of 5 years from 2021-2026.
- **Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat:** For further *swachhta* of urban India, the Budget has focused on complete faecal sludge management and waste water treatment, source segregation of garbage, reduction in single-use plastic, reduction in air pollution by effectively managing waste from construction and demolition activities and bioremediation of all legacy dump sites. The Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 will be implemented with a total financial allocation of ₹ 1,41,678 crore over a period of 5 years from 2021-2026.
- **Scrapping Policy:** A voluntary vehicle scrapping policy forms a crucial part of the Union Budget 2021-22, to phase out old and unfit vehicles. This will help in encouraging fuel-efficient, environment friendly vehicles, thereby reducing vehicular pollution and oil import bill. Vehicles would undergo fitness tests in automated fitness centres-after 20 years in case of personal vehicles, and after 15 years in case of commercial vehicles.
- **PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana:** The Finance Minister announced that a new centrally sponsored scheme, PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, will be launched with an outlay of about ₹ 64,180 crore over 6 years. This will deve-lop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care Health Systems, strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions, to cater to detection and cure of new and emerging diseases. This will be in addition to the National Health Mission.
- **Railway Infrastructure:** Indian Railways have prepared a National Rail Plan for India-2030. The Plan is to create a 'future ready' Railway system by 2030. Bringing down the logistic costs for our industry is at the core of our strategy to enable 'Make in India'. It is expected that Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and Eastern DFC will be commissioned by June 2022.

PADMA AWARDS-2021

President of India Mr. Ram Nath Kovind announced Padma Awards 2021, the prestigious civilian honours of India on the eve of Republic Day on January 25, 2021. This year the President approved conferment of 119 Padma Awards including 1 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one). The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri Awards. 29 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 16 Posthumous awardees and 1 transgender awardee. **PADMA VIBHUSHAN:** ● **Shinzo Abe:** Public Affairs (Japan); ● **S.P. Balasubramaniam (Posthumous):** Art (Tamil Nadu); ● **Belle Monappa Hegde:** Medicine (Karnataka); ● **Narinder Singh Kapany (Posthumous):** Science and Engineering (United States of America); ● **Maulana Wahiduddin Khan:** Other-Spiritualism (Delhi); ● **B.B. Lal Others:** Archaeology (Delhi); ● **Sudarshan Sahoo:** Art (Odisha) **PADMA BHUSHAN** ● **Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra:** Art (Kerala); ● **Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous):** Public Affairs (Assam); ● **Chandrashekhara Kambara:** Literature and Education (Karnataka); ● **Sumitra Mahajan:** Public Affairs (Madhya Pradesh); ● **Nripendra Misra:** Civil Service (Uttar Pradesh); ● **Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous):** Public Affairs (Bihar); ● **Keshubhai Patel (Posthumous):** Public Affairs (Gujarat); ● **Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous):** Others-Spiritualism (Uttar Pradesh); ● **Rajnikant Devidas Shroff:**

Trade and Industry (Maharashtra); ● **Tarlochan Singh:** Public Affairs (Haryana) **PADMA SHRI:** The list includes ● **Subbu Arumugam:** Art (Tamil Nadu); ● **Biren Kumar Basak:** Art (West Bengal); ● **Radhe Devi:** Art (Manipur); ● **Jai Bhagwan Goyal:** Literature and Education (Haryana); ● **Jagadish Chandra Halder:** Literature and Education (West Bengal); ● **Namdeo C. Kamble:** Literature and Education (Maharashtra); ● **Ghulam Rasool Khan:** Art (Jammu & Kashmir); ● **Madhavan Nambiar:** Sport (Kerala); ● **K.Y. Venkatesh:** Sports (Karnataka); ● **Col Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir:** Public Affairs (Bangladesh) and others.

INDIA-AUSTRALIA TEST SERIES

India registered a historic three wicket victory at Australian bastion the Gabba in Brisbane to win the fourth Test on January 19, 2021. With this great win India also clinched the four Test India Australia Series by 2-1 as India had also won the Boxing day Test at Melbourne, the second Test of the series. Australia took 1-0 lead in the four-match series by winning the first Test at Adelaide in December 2020. This test was played with Pink ball. Team India bounced back in the series by winning the second Test at Melbourne by eight wickets. India levelled the series 1-1 with this victory. Third Test of the series was played at Sydney in January 2021. It ended in a draw with great knocks from Indian batsmen under tremendous pressure.

CAPITALS, GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS OF STATES

<i>States</i>	<i>Capitals</i>	<i>Governor</i>	<i>Chief Minister</i>
Andhra Pradesh	Amravati	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan	Y.S. Jagan mohan Reddy
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	B.D. Mishra	Pema Khandu
Assam	Dispur	Jagdish Mukhi	Sarbananda Sonowal
Bihar	Patna	Phagu Chauhan	Nitish Kumar
Chattisgarh	Raipur	Anysuya Uikey	Bhupesh Baghel
Goa	Panaji	Bhagat Singh Koshyari (Add. Ch.)	Pramod Sawant
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Acharya Dev Vrat	Vijay Rupani
Haryana	Chandigarh	Satyadev Narayan Arya	Manohar Lal Khattar
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Bandaru Dattatraya	Jairam Thakur
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Draupadi Murmu	Hemant Soren
Karnataka	Bengluru	Vajubhai Vala	B.S. Yediyurappa
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Arif Mohammed Khan	Pinarayi Vijayan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Anandiben Patel (Add. Ch.)	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Uddhav Thackeray
Manipur	Imphal	Najma Heptulla	N. Biren Singh
Meghalaya	Shillong	Satyapal Malik	Conrad K. Sangma
Mizoram	Aizawl	P.S. Shridharan Pillai	Zoramthanga
Nagaland	Kohima	R.N. Ravi	Neiphiu Rio
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Prof. Ganeshi Lal	Navin Patnayak
Punjab	Chandigarh	V.P. Singh Badnore	Capt. Amarinder Singh
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Kalraj Mishra	Ashok Gehlot
Sikkim	Gangtok	Ganga Prasad	Prem Singh Tamang
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Banwari Lal Purohit	E.K. Palaniswami
Telangana	Hyderabad	Dr. T. Soundararajan	K. Chandrasekhar Rao
Tripura	Agartala	Ramesh Bais	Biplab Kumar Deb
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Baby Rani Maurya	Trivendra Singh Rawat
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Anandiben Patel	Yogi Adityanath
West Bengal	Kolkata	Jagdeep Dhankhar	Mamata Banerjee

UNION TERRITORIES—HEADS & CHIEF MINISTERS

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Lt. Governor/ Administrator</i>	<i>Chief Minister</i>
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	Devendra Kumar Joshi	...
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	V.P. Singh Badnore	...
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Daman	Praful Khoda Patel	...
Delhi	Delhi	Anil Bajjal	Arvind Kejriwal
Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	Dineshwar Sharma	...
Puducherry	Puducherry	Dr. T. Soundararajan (Add. Ch.)	—
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)	Manoj Sinha	—
Ladakh	Leh	R.K. Mathur	—

DELHI WHO'S WHO

❖ **Anil Bajjal:** Lieutenant Governor ❖ **S.N. Srivastava:** Commissioner, Delhi Police

IMPORTANT OFFICIALS (GOVT OF INDIA & AUTONOMOUS BODIES)

Attorney General of India	K.K. Venugopal
Air India, Chairman	Rajiv Bansal
Atomic Energy Commission, Chairman	K.N. Vyas
BSF, Director General	Rakesh Asthana
Central Adm. Tribunal, Chairman	Justice L. Narsimha Reddy
Central Board of Direct Taxes, Chairman	Pramod Chandra Modi
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Chairman	P.K. Das
Cabinet Secretary	Rajiv Gauba
C.S.I.R., Director General	Shekhar C. Mande
Comptroller and Auditor General of India	Girish Chandra Murmu
CRPF, Director General	A.P. Maheshwari
CISF, Director General	Rajesh Ranjan
Chief Justice of India	Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde
C.B.I., Director	Rishi Kumar Shukla
Election Commission, Chief	Sunil Arora
Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, President	Sangita Reddy
Food Corporation of India, Chairman	D.V. Prasad
Foreign Secretary to the Govt of India	Harsh Vardhan Shringla
Life Insurance Corp. (LIC), Chairman	M.R. Kumar
Indian Newspaper Society, President	Sailesh Gupta
Indian Oil Corporation, Chairman	Shrikant Madhav Vaidhya
Airports Authority of India, Chairman	Arvind Singh
ITBP, Director General	S.S. Deswal
Lalit Kala Academy, Chairman	Uttam Pacharne
Home Secretary	Ajay Kumar Bhalla
Competition Commission of India, Chairman	Ashok Kumar Gupta
National Book Trust, Chairman	Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma

National Commission for Women, Chief	Rekha Sharma
National Commission for SC, Chairman	Ram Shankar Katheria
National Commission for ST, Chairman	Nand Kumar Sai
National Commission for Minorities	Gairul Hasan Rizvi
National Human Rights Commission, Chairman	H.L. Dattu
Oil India Limited, CMD	Sushil Chandra Mishra
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., CMD	Shashi Shankar
Reserve Bank of India, Governor	Shaktikanta Das
Railway Board, Chairman	V.K. Yadav
Shipping Corporation of India, Chairman	A.K. Sharma
Space Commission, Chairman	K. Sivan
S.S.C., Chairman	Braj Raj Sharma
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Chairman	Ajay Tyagi
State Bank of India, Chairman	Dinesh Kumar Khara
Solicitor General of India	Tushar Mehta
U.P.S.C., Chairman	Arvind Saxena
U.G.C., Chairman	Prof. D.P. Singh
U.N.I., Chairman	Vishwash Tripathi

OFFICIALS OF PARLIAMENT

1. **Rajya Sabha:** *Chairman:* Vice-President of India (Ex-officio); *Deputy Chairman:* Harivansh
2. **Lok Sabha:** *Speaker:* Om Birla; *Deputy Speaker:* —

CHIEFS OF INDIAN DEFENCE SERVICES

Supreme Commander: President of India; *Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):* Gen. Bipin Rawat; *Chief of the Army Staff:* Manoj Mukund Naravane; *Chief of the Naval Staff:* Admiral Karambir Singh; *Chief of the Air Staff:* Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria

AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS

Indian Ambassadors (Abroad)

China: Vikram Misri; **Germany:** Mukta Dutta Tomar; **France:** Javed Ashraf; **Japan:** Sanjay Kumar Verma; **U.S.A.:** Taranjit Singh Sandhu; **Nepal:** Manjeev Singh Puri; **U.N.:** T.S. Trimurti; **Finland:** Raveesh Kumar; **Kuwait:** K. Jeeva Sagar; **Bhutan:** Ruchira Kamboj; **Russia:** D.B. Venkatesh Varma.

Indian High Commissioners (Abroad)

Canada: Ajay Bisaria; **S. Africa:** Jaideep Sarkar; **Bangladesh:** Riva Ganguly Das; **Sri Lanka:** Gopal Baglay; **Pakistan:** — U.K., Gaitri Issar Kumar; **Australia:** Ajay M. Gondane.

Foreign Ambassadors in India

France: Emmanuel Lenain; **Russia:** Nikolay Kudashev; **China:** Sun Weidong; **Japan:** Satoshi Suzuki; **Germany:** Dr. Martin Ney; **Nepal:** Nilambar Acharya; **U.S.A.:** Kenneth I Juster; **Finland:** Nina Vaskunlahti.

Foreign High Commissioners in India

Canada, Nadir Patel; **U.K.,** Alex Ellis; **Bangladesh,** Syed Muazzem Ali; **Australia,** Barry O'Farrell; **Pakistan,** —; **Sri Lanka:** Austin Fernando.

HEADS AND PRIME MINISTERS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES

P—President; G.G.—Governor General; Q—Queen; K—King; C—Chancellor; E—Emir.

Country	Head of State	Executive Head
Afghanistan	Ashraf Ghani (P)	—
Argentina	Alberto Fernandez (P)	—
Australia	Peter Cosgrove (GG)	Scott Morrison
Austria	Alexander VanDer Belen (P)	Sebastian Kurz (C)
Bangladesh	Abdul Hamid (P)	Sheikh Hasina
Brazil	Jair Bolsonaro (P)	—
Bhutan	Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck (K)	Dr. Lotay Tshering
Bulgaria	Rumen Radev (P)	Boyko Borissov
Belgium	Philip I (K)	Charles Michel
Bolivia	Jeanine Anez	—
Belarus	Alexander Lukashenko (P)	Andrei Kobyakov
Burundi	Evariste Ndayishimiye (P)	—
Canada	Julie Payette (GG)	Justin Trudeau
Cambodia	Prince Norodom Sihamoni (K)	Hun Sen Phiom Penh
Chile	Sabastian Pinera (P)	—
China	Xi Jinping (P)	Li Keqiang
Colombia	Ivan Duque (P)	—
Congo	Joseph Kabila (P)	Bruno Tshibala
Croatia	Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic (P)	Andrej Plenkovic
Cuba	Miguel Diaz Canel (P)	—
Cyprus	Nicos Anastasiades (P)	Omer Kalyoncu
Czech Republic	Milos Zeman (P)	Bohuslav Sobotka
Denmark	Margreth II (Q)	Lars Lokke Rasmussen
El Salvador	Sanchez Ceren (P)	—
Ethiopia	S.W. Zewde (P)	Abiy Ahmed
Fiji	Jioji Konrote (P)	Frank Bainimarama
France	Emmanuel Macron (P)	Edouard Philippe
Finland	Sauli Niinisto (P)	Sanna Marin
Gabon	Ali Bongo Ondimba (P)	Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet
Georgia	S. Zurabishvili (P)	Irakli Garibashvili
Ghana	Nana Akufo Addo (P)	—
Germany	F.W. Steinmeier (P)	Angela Merkel (C)
Greece	Prokopis Pavlopoulos (P)	Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Guinea	Alpha Conde (P)	Mamady Youla
Guyana	David A. Granger	Moses Nagamootoo
Hungary	Janos Ader (P)	Viktor Orban
Iceland	Gudni Johannesson (P)	B. Jarni Benediktsson
Indonesia	Joko Widodo (P)	—
Iran	Hassan Rowhani (P)	—
Ireland	Michael D. Higgins (P)	Micheal Martin
Israel	Reuven Rivlin (P)	Benjamin Netanyahu
Iraq	Barham Salih (P)	Mo. Tawfiq Allawi
Italy	Sergio Mattarella (P)	Mario Draghi
Jamaica	Patrick Allen (GG)	Andrew Holness
Japan	Emperor Naruhito	Yoshihide Suga
Jordan	King Abdullha II	Omar Al Razzaz
Kenya	Uhuru Kenyatta (P)	Raila Odinja
Kuwait	Sheikh Jaber-Al Ahmed-Al Sabah (E)	Jaber Mubarak al-sabah
Libya	Aguila Salah Issa (P)	Fayez al-Sarraj
Laos	Bounnhang Vorachit (P)	Thongloun Sisoulith
Lithuania	Dalia Grybauskaite (P)	Saulius Skvernėlis

Madagascar	Hery Rajaonarimampianina (<i>P</i>)	Christian Ntsay
Malaysia	S.A.S. Ahmad Shah (<i>K</i>)	Muhyiddin Yassin
Maldives	Ibrahim Mohamed Solih (<i>P</i>)	—
Mauritius	Prithvirajsing Roopun (<i>P</i>)	Pravind Jugnauth
Myanmar	Mont Swe (<i>W.P</i>)	—
Mexico	A.M. Lopez Obrador (<i>P</i>)	—
Mongolia	Khaltmaagiin Battulga (<i>P</i>)	Jargaltulgyn Erdenebat
Mozambique	Filipe Nyusi (<i>P</i>)	Carlos Agostinho Rosario
Morocco	Mohammad VI (<i>K</i>)	Saadeddine Othmani
Namibia	Hage Geingob (<i>P</i>)	Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila
Nepal	Bidhya Devi Bhandari (<i>P</i>)	K.P. Sharma Oli
New Zealand	Jerry Mateparae (<i>GG</i>)	Jacinda Ardern
Netherlands	Willem Alexander (<i>K</i>)	Mark Rutte
North Korea	Kim Jong Un (<i>P</i>)	—
Norway	Crown Prince Harald V(<i>K</i>)	Erna Solberg
Nigeria	Muhammadu Buhari (<i>P</i>)	—
Pakistan	Arif Alvi (<i>P</i>)	Imran Khan
Philippines	Rodrigo Duterte (<i>P</i>)	—
Portugal	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa (<i>P</i>)	Antonio Costa
Poland	Andrezej Duda (<i>P</i>)	Beata Szydly
Peru	Martin Vizcarra (<i>P</i>)	Fernando Zavala
Rwanda	Paul Kagme (<i>P</i>)	Anastase Murekezi
Romania	Klaus Lohannis (<i>P</i>)	Ludovic Orban
Russia	Vladimir Putin (<i>P</i>)	Mikhail Mishustin
Saudi Arabia	Salman bin Abdul Aziz (<i>K</i>)	—
Sierra Leone	Ernest Bai Koroma (<i>P</i>)	—
Serbia	Aleksander Vucic (<i>P</i>)	Itica Dekik
Senegal	Macky Sall (<i>P</i>)	Mohammed Dionne
Slovakia	Zuzana Caputova (<i>P</i>)	Robert Fico
Sri Lanka	Gotabaya Rajapaksa (<i>P</i>)	Mahinda Rajapaksa
Sudan	Abdel Fatah Al-Burha (<i>P</i>)	Abdela Hamdak
Surinam	Desi Bouterse (<i>P</i>)	—
Syria	Bashar al-Assad (<i>P</i>)	Imad Khamis
Spain	Felipe-VI (<i>K</i>)	Pedro Sanchez
South Africa	Cyril Ramaphosa (<i>P</i>)	—
South Korea	Moon Jae-in	C. Sye-kyun
Sweden	Carl Gustav XVI (<i>K</i>)	Stefan Lofven
Switzerland	Simonetta Sommaruga (<i>P</i>)	—
Singapore	Halimah Jacob(<i>P</i>)	Lee Hsien Loong
Tanzania	John Magufuli (<i>P</i>)	Kassim Majaliwa
Taiwan	Tsai Ingwen (<i>P</i>)	William Lai
Trinidad & Tobago	Anthony Carmona (<i>P</i>)	Keeth Rawle
Thailand	Maha Vajiralongkorn (<i>K</i>)	Prayuth Chan-ocha
Turkey	Recep Tayyip Erdogan (<i>P</i>)	Binali Yildirim
Tunisia	Kais Saied (<i>P</i>)	—
U.A.E.	Sheikh Khalifa (<i>P</i>)	Sheikh Maktoum
U.K.	Elizabeth II (<i>Q</i>)	Boris Johnson
U.S.A.	Joe Biden (<i>P</i>)	—
Uganda	Yoweri Museveni (<i>P</i>)	Ruhakana Rugunda
Ukraine	Volodymyr Zelensky (<i>P</i>)	Volodymyr Groysman
Uruguay	Tabare Vazquez (<i>P</i>)	—
Vietnam	N.P. Trong (<i>P</i>)	Nguyen Xuan Phuc
Vatican City	Pope Francis	—
Zambia	Edgar Lungu (<i>P</i>)	M.N. Masheke
Zimbabwe	Emmerson Mnangagwa (<i>P</i>)	Morgan Tsvangirai



SPORTS

IMPORTANT CUPS & TROPHIES

INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **American Cup:** Yacht Racing
- ◆ **Ashes:** Cricket
- ◆ **Benson and Hedges:** Cricket
- ◆ **Canada Cup:** Golf
- ◆ **Colombo Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Corbitton Cup:** Table Tennis (Women)
- ◆ **Davis Cup:** Lawn Tennis
- ◆ **Derby:** Horse Race
- ◆ **Grand National:** Horse Strephe Chase Race
- ◆ **Jules Rimet Trophy:** World Soccer Cup
- ◆ **King's Cup:** Air Races
- ◆ **Merdeka Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Ryder Cup:** Golf
- ◆ **Swaythling Cup:** Table Tennis (Men)
- ◆ **Thomas Cup:** Badminton
- ◆ **U. Thant Cup:** Tennis
- ◆ **Uber Cup:** Badminton (Women)
- ◆ **Walker Cup:** Golf
- ◆ **Wightman Cup:** Lawn Tennis
- ◆ **World Cup:** Cricket

- ◆ **World Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Reliance Cup:** Cricket
- ◆ **Rothman's Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **William's Cup:** Basketball
- ◆ **European Champions Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Eisenhower Cup:** Golf
- ◆ **Essande Champions Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Rene Frank Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Grand Prix:** Table Tennis
- ◆ **Edgbaston Cup:** Lawn Tennis
- ◆ **Grand Prix:** Lawn Tennis
- ◆ **World Cup:** Weightlifting

NATIONAL

- ◆ **Agarwal Cup:** Badminton
- ◆ **Agha Khan Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **All India Women's Guru Nanak Championship:** Hockey
- ◆ **Bandodkar Trophy:** Football
- ◆ **Bangalore Blues Challenge Cup:** Basketball
- ◆ **Barna-Bellack Cup:** Table Tennis
- ◆ **Bighton Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Bombay Gold Cup:** Hockey

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- ◆ **Burdwan Trophy:** Weightlifting
- ◆ **Charminar Trophy:** Athletics
- ◆ **Chadha Cup:** Badminton
- ◆ **C.K. Naydu Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Divan Cup:** Badminton
- ◆ **Deodhar Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Duleep Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **D.C.M. Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Durand Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Dhyan Chand Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Dr. B.C. Roy Trophy:** Football (Junior)
- ◆ **Ezra Cup:** Polo
- ◆ **F.A. Cup:** Football
- ◆ **G.D. Birla Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Ghulam Ahmed Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Gurmeet Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Guru Nanak Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Gyanvati Devi Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Holkar Trophy:** Bridge
- ◆ **Irani Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **I.F.A. Shield:** Football
- ◆ **Indira Gold Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Jawaharlal Challenge:** Air Racing
- ◆ **Jaswant Singh Trophy:** Best Services Sportsman
- ◆ **Kuppuswamy Naidu Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Lady Rattan Tata Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **MCC Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Moinuddaula Gold Cup:** Cricket
- ◆ **Murugappa Gold Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Modi Gold Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Narang Cup:** Badminton
- ◆ **Nehru Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Nixan Gold Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Obaid Ullah Gold Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Prithi Singh Cup:** Polo

- ◆ **Rani Jhansi Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Ranji Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Rangaswami Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Ranjit Singh Gold Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Rajendra Prasad Cup:** Tennis
- ◆ **Ramanujan Trophy:** Table Tennis
- ◆ **Rene Frank Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Rohinton Baria Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Rovers Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Sanjay Gold Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Santosh Trophy:** Football
- ◆ **Sir Ashutosh Mukerjee:** Football
- ◆ **Subroto Cup:** Football
- ◆ **Scindia Gold Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Sahni Trophy:** Hockey
- ◆ **Sheesh Mahal Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Todd Memorial Trophy:** Football
- ◆ **Tommy Eman Gold Cup:** Hockey
- ◆ **Vittal Trophy:** Football
- ◆ **Vizzy Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Vijay Merchant Trophy:** Cricket
- ◆ **Wellington Trophy:** Rowing
- ◆ **Wills Trophy:** Cricket

■ SPORTS MEASUREMENTS

- ◆ **Badminton Courts:** 44 ft. by 20 ft. (doubles) 44 ft. by 17 ft. (singles)
- ◆ **Boxing Ring:** 12 ft. by 28 ft. Sq.
- ◆ **Cricket Pitch:** 22 yards (distance)
- ◆ **Derby Course:** 1½ miles. (2.4 km)
- ◆ **Football Field:**
 - (a) Length : 100 – 120 yards.
[Breadth: 50 – 56 yards.
 - (b) Rugby : 100 yards by 75 yards
- ◆ **Hockey Ground:** 100 yards by 55 to 60 yards

- ◆ **Lawn Tennis Court:** 78 ft. by 36 ft. (double), 78 ft. by 28 ft. (single)
- ◆ **Marathon Race:** 26 miles, 385 yards
- ◆ **Polo Ground:** 300 yards by 200 yards (if boarded)
- ◆ **Golf:** Hole 4½ inches in diameter.

SPORTS TERMS

- ◆ **Badminton:** Mixed doubles; Deuce; Drop; Smash; Let; Foot work; Setting.
- ◆ **Base Ball:** Pitcher; Put out, Strike; Home; Bunt.
- ◆ **Billiards:** Cue; Jigger; Pot; Break; In Baulk; In Off; Cannons.
- ◆ **Boxing:** Upper cut; Round; Punch; Bout; Knock down; Hitting below the belt; Ring.
- ◆ **Bridge:** Finesse; Dummy; Revoke; Grand Slam; Little Slam; No Trump; Rubber.
- ◆ **Chess:** Bishop, Gambit; Checkmate; Stalemate.

- ◆ **Cricket:** L.B.W. (**leg before wicket**); Creases, Popping-creases; Stumped; Bye; Leg-Bye; Googly; Hattrick; Maiden over; Drive; Bowling; Duck; Follow-on; No ball; Leg Break; Silly point; Cover point; Hit-wicket; Late-cut; Slip; Off-spinner; In-swing.
- ◆ **Football:** Off Side; Block; Drop-kick; Penalty-kick (or **goal kick**); Corner-kick; Free-kick; Dribble; Thrown-in; Foul.
- ◆ **Golf:** Boggy; Foursome; Stymic; Tee; Put; Hole; Niblic; Caddie; Links; The green; Bunker.
- ◆ **Hockey:** Carried; Short Corner; Bully; Sticks; Off side; Roll in; Striking Circle; Under-cutting; Dribble.
- ◆ **Horse racing:** Jockey; Punter.
- ◆ **Polo:** Bunker; Chukker; Mallet.
- ◆ **Tennis:** Back hand drive; Volley; Smash; Half-volley; Deuce; Service; Let; Grand Slam.

Stadiums & Places Associated with Sports

Name of Stadium	Sports	Place
Arun Jaitley Sta.	Cricket	Delhi
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	Athletics	Delhi
Shivajee Stadium	Hockey	Delhi
National Stadium	Hockey etc.	Delhi
Indraprastha Stadium	Indoor Games	Delhi
Ambedkar Sta.	Football	Delhi
Brabourne Sta.	Cricket	Mumbai
Wankhede Sta.	Cricket	Mumbai
National Stadium	Hockey etc.	Mumbai
Eden Garden	Cricket	Kolkata
Ranjeet Stadium	Football	Kolkata
Green Park Sta.	Cricket	Kanpur
Keenan Stadium	Cricket	Jamshedpur

Name of Stadium	Sports	Place
Nehru (Chepauk) Stadium	Cricket	Chennai
Barabati Stadium	Cricket	Cuttack
Epsom	Derby Race	Britain
Lords, Oval, Leeds	Cricket	Britain
Hedingle	Cricket	Britain
Manchester		
Black Heath	Rugby	London
	Football	
Henley	Boat race	England
Wimbledon	Lawn Tennis	London
Wembley Stadium	Football	London
Hurlingham	Polo	England
White City	Dog-race	England
Aintree	Horse-race	England
Tentbridge	Cricket	England

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Name of Stadium	Sports	Place
Patnee Martlake	Boat-race	England
Tibankham	Rugby	England
	Football	
Brookland	Football	England
Sandy Lodge	Golf	Scotland

Name of Stadium	Sports	Place
Forest Hill	Tennis	New York
Brooklyn	Baseball	New York
Yankee Stadium	Boxing	New York
Perth, Brisbane,		
Melbourne	Cricket	Australia

Name of Playing Compound of Different Games

Name of Compound	Related Sports
Court	Lawn Tennis, Badminton, Netball, Hand ball, Volleyball, Squash, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi
Diamond	Baseball
Ring	Boxing, Skating, Wrestling, Circus, Riding display
Course	Golf
Board	Table Tennis

Name of Compound	Related Sports
Pool	Swimming
Alley	Bowling
Mat	Judo, Karate II
Arena	Horse Riding
Vellodrum	Cycling
Field	Polo, Football, Hockey
Track	Athletics
Pitch	Cricket, Rugby
Rink	Ice Hockey

Number of Players in Some Games/Sports

Sports	No. of Players
Badminton	1 or 2
Baseball	9
Basketball	5
Billiards (Snooker)	1
Boxing	1
Bridge	2
Chess	1
Cricket	11
Croquet	13 or 15
Football (Soccer)	11

Sports	No. of Players
Hockey	11
Lacrosse	12
Netball	7
Polo	4
Rugby Football	15
Table Tennis	1 or 2
Lawn Tennis	1 or 2
Volleyball	6
Water Polo	7

National Sports and Games of Some Countries

Country	Game
Australia	Cricket
Canada	Ice Hockey
England	Cricket and Rugby Football
Japan	Ju-Jitsu
Russia	Chess

Country	Game
Scotland	Rugby Football
Spain	Bull Fighting
USA	Baseball
China	Table Tennis
Malaysia	Badminton

OLYMPIC GAMES

First of all these games were held by the Greeks in 776 B.C. on Mount Olympus in honour of the Greek God Zeus. In this way, the history of Olympic Games is about twenty eight hundred years old. These games continued to be held every four years until 394 A.D. When these games were stopped by a royal order of the emperor of Rome. The modern Olympic Games which started in Athens in 1896, are the result of the devotion and dedication of a French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin and the first Olympic meet in the modern series was held in 1896 in Athens, the Capital of Greece. Since then, they are being held every four years except for breaks during world wars. The Olympic flag is white in colour with five coloured rings, each ring symbolic of a continent. Summer as well as winter Olympics are held in the same year.

Olympic Games (Venues & Dates)

Year	Venue	Organising	Countries
1896	Athens	6-15 April	13
1900	Paris	20 May - 28 October	22
1904	St. Louis	1 July -23 Nov.	13
1908	London	27 April - 31 October	22
1912	Stock- holm	5 May - 22 July	28
1916	Berlin	Cancelled	—
1920	Antwerp	20 April - 12 Sept.	29
1924	Paris	4 May - 27 July	44
1928	Amster- dam	17 May - 12 August	46
1932	Los Angeles	30 July - 14 August	47
1936	Berlin	1 May- 16 Aug.	49
1940	Tokyo (Helsinki)	Cancelled	—
1944	London	Cancelled	—
1948	London	29 July - 14 August	59
1952	Helsinki	19 July - 3 August	69
1956	Mel- bourne	22 Nov. - 8 Dec.	71
1960	Rome	25 August - 11 Sept.	83

Year	Venue	Organising	Countries
1964	Tokyo	10 - 24 Oct.	93
1968	Mexico City	12 - 27 Oct.	112
1972	Munich	26 August - 10 September	122
1976	Montreal	17 July - 1 Sept.	88
1980	Moscow	19 July - 3 August	81
1984	Los Angeles	28 July - 12 August	140
1988	Seoul	17 Sept. - 2 Oct.	160
1992	Barce- lona	25 July - 9 August	170
1996	Atlanta	19 July - 4 August	197
2000	Sydney	15 Sept. - 1 October	199
2004	Athens	14-29 Aug.	202
2008	Beijing	8-24 Aug.	204
2012	London	27 July - 12 Aug.	204
2016	Rio de Janeiro	5-21 Aug.	206
2021	Tokyo	To be held	

Note: Games was not held in 1916, 1940, and 1944 due to World War.

ASIAN GAMES

After the Second World War, most of the Asian Countries gained independence. On the lines of Olympic Games, Asian Games were planned every four years. India hosted the first Asian Games in 1951.

Asian Games: An Overview

Year	Venues	Countries	No. of Games	First Posi.
1951	New Delhi	11	6	Japan
1954	Manila	18	7	Japan
1958	Tokyo	20	13	Japan
1962	Jakarta	16	13	Japan
1966	Bangkok	18	14	Japan
1970	Bangkok	18	13	Japan
1974	Teheran	25	16	Japan
1978	Bangkok	25	19	Japan
1982	New Delhi	33	21	China
1986	Seoul	34	25	China

Year	Venues	Countries	No. of Games	First Posi.
1990	Beijing	37	27	China
1994	Hiroshima	42	34	China
1998	Bangkok	41	36	China
2002	Busan	44	38	China
2006	Doha	46	43	China
2010	Guangzhou	45	42	China
2014	Incheon	45	36	China
2018	Jakarta	45	40	China
2022	Hangzhou (China)	Scheduled		

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Commonwealth Games are held every four years, in the year in which Asian Games are held. All the Commonwealth Countries (former colonies of Britain) can take part in it. The first Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 at Hamilton (Canada).

Venues of Commonwealth Games

Venues	Year	Countries	Events
Hamilton, Canada	1930	11	6
London, U.K.	1934	16	6
Sydney, Australia	1938	15	7
Auckland, New Zealand	1950	12	7
Vancouver, Canada	1954	24	9
Cardiff, U.K.	1958	35	9
Perth, Australia	1962	35	9
Jamaica, W. Indies	1966	34	9
Edinburgh, U.K.	1970	42	9
Christchurch, New Zealand	1974	39	9
Edmonton, Canada	1978	48	10
Brisbane, Australia	1982	47	10

Venues	Year	Countries	Events
Edinburgh, U.K.	1986	26	10
Auckland, New Zealand	1990	55	10
Victoria, Canada	1994	64	
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1998	70	16
Manchester, U.K.	2002	72	17
Melbourne, Aus.	2006	71	16
Delhi, India	2010	71	17
Glasgow, Scotland	2014	71	17
Gold Coast, Australia	2018	71	17
Birmingham, U.K.	2022 (Scheduled)		

World Cup Football History

Year	Winner	Runners-Up
1930	Uruguay	Argentina
1934	Italy	Czechoslovakia
1938	Italy	Hungary
1950	Uruguay	Brazil
1954	West Germany	Hungary
1958	Brazil	Sweden
1962	Brazil	Czechoslovakia
1966	England	West Germany
1970	Brazil	Italy
1974	W. Germany	Poland
1978	Argentina	Holland
1982	Italy	W. Germany

Year	Winner	Runners-Up
1986	Argentina	W. Germany
1990	W. Germany	Argentina
1994	Brazil	Italy
1998	France	Brazil
2002	Brazil	Germany
2006	Italy	France
2010	Spain	Netherlands
2014	Germany	Argentina
2018	France	Croatia
2022	Qatar	(to be held)

World Cup Cricket History

Year	Venue	Winner/Runner
1975	U.K.	West Indies beat Australia
1979	U.K.	West Indies beat England
1983	U.K.	India beat West Indies
1987	India & Pakistan	Australia beat England
1992	Australia	Pakistan beat England
1996	India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka beat Australia
1999	U.K.	Australia beat Pakistan

Year	Venue	Winner/Runner
2003	Sout Africa	Australia beat India
2007	West Indies	Australia beat Sri Lanka
2011	India, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh	India beat Sri Lanka
2015	Australia, New Zealand	Australia beat New Zealand
2019	England	England beat New Zealand
2023	India	(to be held)

31ST RIO OLYMPIC, 2016 (AUG 5 TO 21 AUG, 2016)

Rio Olympics 2016 held from August 5 to August 21. 207 countries and 11,000 athletes took part from all over the world. With 46 Gold, the USA reclaimed the top position and most medals overall (121). Great Britain finished second and China finishing third and host country Brazil won seven gold medals, their most at any single Summer Olympics. India finished 67th with 2 medals (1 Silver & 1 Bronze).

Final Medals Tally up to 5th Position

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
1.	U.S.	46	37	38	121
2.	Great Britain	27	23	17	67
3.	China	26	18	26	70

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
4.	Russia	19	18	19	56
5.	Germany	17	10	15	42

SOME SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

TENNIS

- ◆ **Italian Open (May, 2019)**—Rafael Nadal (Spain).
- ◆ **Madrid Open (May, 2019)**—Novak Djokovic (Serbia).
- ◆ **Australian Open 2021 (Jan., 2021)**—**Men's Singles:** Novak Djokovic (Serbia); **Women's Singles:** Naomi Osaka (Japan).
- ◆ **French Open (Sep.-Oct. 2020)**—**Men's Singles:** Rafael Nadal (Spain); **Women's Singles:** Iga Swiatek (Poland).
- ◆ **Wimbledon (July 2019)**—**Men's Singles:** Novak Djokovic (Serbia); **Women's Singles:** Simona Halep (Romania).
- ◆ **U.S. Open (Sept., 2020)**—**Men's Singles:** Dominic Thiem (Australia); **Women's Singles:** Naomi Osaka (Japan).

FOOTBALL

- ◆ **Santosh Trophy (April 2019, Ludhiana)**—Services defeated Punjab.
- ◆ **Super Cup (April 2019, Bhubaneswar)**—FC Goa beat Chennaian FC.

HOCKEY

- ◆ **FIH Series Finals (June, 2019, Bhubaneswar)**—India beat S. Africa.

- ◆ **Hockey India Junior National Championship (April-May, 2018)**—**Men's:** Punjab; **Women's:** Jharkhand.
- ◆ **Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament (March 2019, Ipoh)**—South Korea beat India.
- ◆ **National Hockey Championship (March 2018, New Delhi)**—Punjab beat Petroleum Sports Promotion Board.

BADMINTON

- ◆ **Malaysia Open (April 2019)**—Lin Dan (**Men's**); Tai Tzu Ying (**Women's**).
- ◆ **Premier Badminton League (Jan., 2019, Bengaluru)**—Bengaluru Raptors.
- ◆ **Korea Open (Sept. 2019, Seoul)**—Kento Momota (Japan) (**Men's**), He Bingjiao (China) (**Women's**).
- ◆ **Indonesia Open (Jan. 2019, Jakarta)**—Saina Nehwal (India).
- ◆ **Badminton World Championship (August 2019, Basel)**—P.V. Sindhu (India).
- ◆ **Hyderabad Open (August, 2019)**—Sourabh Verma (India).
- ◆ **All England Badminton Championship (March 2019)**—Kento Mamota (Japan) (**Men's**), Chen Yufei (China) (**Women's**).

■ CRICKET

- ◆ **ICC World Cup (July 2019, London)**–England defeated New Zealand.
- ◆ **Under-19 World Cup (Feb., 2018 Mount Maunganui)**–India defeated Australia.
- ◆ **Women’s T-20 Challenge Championship (April 2019, Jaipur)**–Supernovas.
- ◆ **IPL-13 (November 2020, Dubai)**–Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals.
- ◆ **Vijay Hazare Trophy (Oct. 2019, Bengaluru)**–Karnataka beat Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ **Duleep Trophy (Sept. 2019 Bengaluru)**–India Red.
- ◆ **Under-19 Asia Cup (Sept., 2019, Colombo)**–India defeated Bangladesh.

■ CHESS

- ◆ **Chennai Open (Jan. 2019)**–Levan Pantsulaia (Georgia).
- ◆ **Norway Chess Tournament (June 2019, Stavanger)**–Magnus Carlsen.

■ GOLF

- ◆ **China Open (May 2019)**–Mico Korhonen (Finland).
- ◆ **Indian Open (April 2019, Gurugram)**–Stephen Gallacher (Scotland).
- ◆ **Augusta Masters (April 2019, USA)**–Tiger Woods (US).
- ◆ **Texax Open (April 2019)**–Corey Connors (Canada).
- ◆ **Women’s World Championship (March 2019, Singapore)**–Park Sung-Yun (South Korea).

■ BILLIARDS/SNOOKER

- ◆ **World 6-Red Snooker (Sept. 2019, Mandalay)**–(Men’s) Laxman Rawat (India); (Women’s) Wongharuthai Nutcharat (Thailand).
- ◆ **Asian 10-Red Snooker (April 2019, Bengaluru)**–Pankaj Advani (India).
- ◆ **World Billiards Championship (Sept. 2019, Mandalay)**–Pankaj Advani (India).
- ◆ **Asian Snooker Championship (June 2019, Doha)**–Pankaj Advani (India).





AWARDS/HONOURS/ PRIZES

NATIONAL AWARDS

BHARAT RATNA

This is India's highest civilian award. It is given for exceptional work on art, literature, science, sport and recognition of public service of the highest order. Government servants are not eligible for it. The table shows the recipients of the award:

Bharat Ratna Award Winners

1. C. Rajagopalachari	1954	21. M.G. Ramachandran*	1988
2. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan	1954	22. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar*	1990
3. Dr. C.V. Raman	1954	23. Dr. Nelson R. Mandela	1990
4. Dr. Bhagwan Das	1955	24. Rajiv Gandhi*	1991
5. Dr. M. Visvesvaraya	1955	25. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel*	1991
6. Jawahar Lal Nehru	1955	26. Morarji R. Desai	1991
7. Govind Ballabh Pant	1957	27. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad*	1992
8. Dr. D.K. Karve	1958	28. Jhangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata	1992
9. Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy	1961	29. Satyajit Roy	1992
10. Purushottam Das Tandon	1961	30. Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda	1997
11. Dr. Rajendra Prasad	1962	31. Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali*	1997
12. Dr. Zakir Hussain	1963	32. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	1997
13. Dr. Pandurang Vaman Kane	1963	33. M.S. Subbalakshmi	1998
14. Lal Bahadur Shastri*	1966	34. C. Subramaniam	1998
15. Indira Gandhi	1971	35. Jaya Prakash Narayan*	1999
16. V.V. Giri	1975	36. Prof. Amartya Sen	1999
17. K. Kamraj*	1976	37. Pt. Ravi Shankar	1999
18. Mother Teresa	1980	38. Gopinath Bardoloi	1999
19. Acharya Vinoba Bhave*	1983	39. Lata Mangeshkar	2001
20. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan	1987	40. Bismillah Khan	2001

41.	Bhimsen Joshi	2009
42.	Sachin Tendulkar	2014
43.	C.N.R. Rao	2014
44.	Madan Mohan Malaviya*	2015

45.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	2015
46.	Nanaji Deshmukh*	2019
47.	Bhupen Hazarika*	2019
48.	Pranab Mukherjee	2019

* Posthumous

■ PADMA AWARDS

Padma Vibhushan: This award is given for exceptional and distinguished service in any field, including service rendered by Govt. servants.

Padma Bhushan: This award is given for distinguished service of a high order in any field, including service rendered by Govt. servants.

Padma Shri: This award is given for distinguished service in any field, including service rendered by Government servants.

■ GALLANTRY AWARDS

Param Vir Chakra: The highest award for bravery or some daring and pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

Mahavir Chakra: It is the second highest decoration and is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

Vir Chakra: It is the third in order of awards given for acts of gallantry in the presence of enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

Ashok Chakra: This medal is awarded for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice on land, at sea or in the air but not in the presence of enemy.

Vishishta Sewa Medal: It is awarded to personnel of all the three Services in class I, II and III in recognition of distinguished service of the “most exceptional” and “exceptional” and a “high” order respectively. Prefixes **Parma** and **Ati** are added before first two categories of medals respectively.

Jeewan Raksha Padak: Awarded for meritorious acts or a series of acts of a human nature displayed in saving life from drowning, fire and rescue operations in mines etc.

OTHER NATIONAL AWARDS

■ NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2020

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna: Rohit Sharma (Cricket), Mariyappan T. (Para Athletics), Manika Batra (Table Tennis),

Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling), Rani Rampal (Hockey).

Arjuna Awards: Atanu Das (Archery), Dutee Chand (Athletics), Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (Badminton), Chirag

Chandrasekhar Shetty (Badminton), Vishesh Bharguvanshi (Basketball), Subedar Manish Kaushik (Boxing), Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing), Ishant Sharma (Cricket), Deepti Sharma (Cricket), Sawant Ajay Anant (Equestrian), Sandesh Jhingan (Football), Aditi Ashok (Golf), Akashdeep Singh (Hockey), Deepika (Hockey), Deepak (Kabaddi), Kale Sarika Sudhakar (Kho Kho), Dattu Baban Bhokanal (Rowing), Manu Bhaker (Shooting), Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooting), Madhurika Suhas Patkar (Table Tennis), Divij Sharan (Tennis), Shiva Keshavan (Winter Sports), Divya Kakran (Wrestling), Rahul Aware (Wrestling), Suyash Narayan Jadhav (Para Swimming), Sandeep (Para Athletics), Manish Narwal (Para Shooting).

Dronacharya Awards (Regular Category): Jude Felix Sebastian (Hockey), Yogesh Malviya (Mallakhamb), Jaspal Rana (Shooting), Kuldeep Kumar Handoo (Wushu), Gaurav Khanna (Para Badminton).

Dronacharya Awards (Life-time Category): Dharmendra Tiwary (Archery), Purushotham Rai (Athletics), Shiv Singh (Boxing), Romesh Pathania (Hockey), Krishan Kumar Hooda (Kabaddi), Vijay Bhalchandra Muni-shwar (Para Powerlifting), Naresh Kumar (Tennis), Om Parkash Dahiya (Wrestling).

Dhyanchand Awards: Kuldip Singh Bhullar (Athletics), Jincy Philips (Athletics), Pradeep Shri-krishna Gandhe (Badminton), Trupti Murgunde

(Badminton), N. Usha (Boxing), Lakha Singh (Boxing), Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu (Football), Ajit Singh (Hockey), Manpreet Singh (Kabaddi), J. Ranjith Kumar (Para Athletics), Satyaprakash Tiwari (Para Badminton), Manjeet Singh (Rowing), Late Sachin Nag (Swimming), Nandan P Bal (Tennis), Netarpal Hooda (Wrestling).

■ JNANPITH AWARD 2019

Eminent Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri, popularly known as Akkitham has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith Award for the year 2019. Mr. Akkitham is one of the revered names in Malayalam poetry. His literary excellence has footprints in genre like drama, reminiscence, critical essays, children literature, short stories and translations.

■ SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS

These prizes are awarded annually to the authors of the most outstanding books of literary merit published in each of the 22 languages recognised by the Akademi. There are also two awards for Sanskrit and English. The award, inform of a casket containing an inscribed copper plate and a cheque of ₹ 1,00,000/- is given to the author or his/her heir.

■ 67th NATIONAL FILM AWARDS-2019

Best Feature Film: Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham (Malayalam); **Best Director:** Sanjay Puri (Chauhan (Bahattar Hoorain)); **Best Actor:** Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle and

Dhanush for Asuran; **Best Actress:** Kangana Ranaut (Manikarnika, Panga); **Best Supporting Actor:** Vijaya Sethupathi (Super Deluxe); **Best Supporting Actress:** Pallavi Joshi (The Tashkent Files); **Best Male Playback Singer:** B. Prajak (Kesri) (Teri Mitti, Hindi); **Best Female Playback Singer:** Savni Ravindra, Bardo (Marathi); **Best Cinematography:** Jallikkettu (Malayalam) Girish Gangadharam; **Best Dialogue Writer:** Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri—The Tashkent Files (Hindi); **Best Adapted Screenplay:** Shrijit Mukherji (Gumnaami); **Best**

Original Screenplay: Kaushik Ganguli (Jyeshthoputro); **Best Song:** Prabha Varma (Kolambi); **Best Music Direction:** D. Imman (Vishawam); **Best Hindi Film:** Chhichhore; **Best Animation Film :** Radha (Musical); **Best Education Film :** Apples and Oranges (English); **Best Film on Social Issues :** Holy Rights (Hindi) and Ladli (Hindi).

■ DADA SAHEB PHALKE AWARD

The award carries a cash prize of ₹ 10 lakh, a Shawl and Swarna Kamal. Recipients of Dada Saheb Phalke Award are:

Dada Saheb Phalke Award Winners

Mrs Devika Rani Roerich	1969
B.N. Sirkar	1970
Prithvi Raj Kapoor	1971
Pankaj Mallick	1972
Mrs Ruby Myers	1973
B.N. Reddy	1974
Dhiren Ganguly	1975
Mrs Kanan Devi	1976
Nitin Bose	1977
R.C. Boral	1978
Sohrab Modi	1979
P. Jai Raj	1980
Naushad Ali	1981
L.V. Prasad	1982
Mrs. Durga Khote	1983
Satyajit Roy	1984
V. Shantaram	1985
B. Nagi Reddy	1986
Raj Kapoor	1987
Ashok Kumar	1988
Lata Mangeshkar	1989
A. Nageshwar Rao	1990
Bhalji Pendharkar	1991
Bhupen Hazarika	1992
Majrooh Sultanpuri	1993
Dilip Kumar	1994

Dr Raj Kumar	1995
Sivaji Ganesan	1996
Pradeepji (Poet, lyricist)	1997
B.R. Chopra	1998
Hrishikesh Mukherjee	1999
Asha Bhonsle	2000
Yash Chopra	2001
Devanand	2002
Mrinal Sen	2003
A. G. Krishnan	2004
Shyam Benegal	2005
Tapan Sinha	2006
Manna Dey	2007
V.K. Murthy	2008
D. Ramanaidu	2009
K. Balachander	2010
Soumitra Chatterjee	2011
Pran	2012
Gulzar	2013
Shashi Kapoor	2014
Manoj Kumar	2015
K. Vishwanath	2016
Vinod Khanna	2017
Amitabh Bachchan	2018
Rajinikanth	2019

■ INDIRA GANDHI AWARD FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION 2017-18

The 31st Indira Gandhi award–2017-18 for national integration is given to the pioneer of the Chipko movement, Chandi Prasad Bhatt. for his contribution to promoting and preserving the spirit of national integration. The award carries a cash prize of ₹ 10 lakh.

■ SARASWATI SAMMAN

Given for outstanding literary works, value ₹ 15 lakh. The award for the year 2020 has been given to Sharan Kumar Limbale for his Marathi novel, 'Sanatan'.

■ JAMNALAL BAJAJ AWARDS 2019

Each of the award comprises a cash prize of ₹ 10 lakh, a trophy and citation. It is given for outstanding role in different walks of life. The winners of 2019 award are Mr. Bhawani Shanker Kusum; Mr. Mohammad Imran Khan Mewati; Ms. Shaheen Mistri; Ms. Sonia Deotto.

■ VYAS SAMMAN-2019

This is awarded by KK Birla Foundation for outstanding Hindi Literary work by an Indian citizen that was published in the past decade. This carries a cash prize of ₹ 4.0 lakh. The award for 2019 has been given to Noted Hindi writer Nasira Sharma for her novel "Kagaz ki Naav".

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

■ NOBEL PRIZES

These Prizes were instituted in 1901 by a Swedish scientist, Dr. Alfred Nobel; the discoverer of Dynamite. Six prizes are awarded annually for (i) Chemistry, (ii) Physics, (iii) Medicine, (iv) Literature, (v) Peace and (vi) Economics—started since 1969. Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore was first Indian who got this award in 1913 for his book 'Gitanjali'

Nobel Prize-2020

Medicine or Physiology: American scientists due Harvey J. Alter and

Charles M. Rice and British scientist Michael Houghton were declared the joint winners of the Nobel prize for Medicine for their discovery of the hepatitis C Virus, a major cause of liver disease.

Physics: British physicist Roger Penrose, Andrea Ghez of the USA and Reinhard Genzel of Germany were declared the winners of the Nobel Prize for Physics for their black hole discoveries.

Chemistry: Emma-nuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the USA

were announced the winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing the gene-editing technique better known as CRISPR-CAS 9 tool; contributing to new cancer therapies and giving new directions in treatment of hereditary diseases.

Literature: American poet Louise Gluck was honoured with the Nobel Prize for Literature “for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal.” Ms. Gluck, a professor of English at Yale University is known for themes of childhood and family life.

Peace: The Rome-based United Nations’ World Food Programme (WFP) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for its efforts to combat hunger around the world and improve conditions for peace in areas affected by conflict.

Economics: American economists duo Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson, both based at Stanford University, USA were declared the joint winners of the Nobel Prize in Economics, originally known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economics Sciences for work on commercial auctions, including for goods and services difficult to sell in traditional ways such as radio frequencies.

■ MAGSAYSAY AWARDS-2019

The 2019 awardees are: **Ravish Kumar (India):** For Harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless. **Angkhana Neelapaijit (Thailand):** For Champion-

ing justice, case after painful case. **Kim Jong-ki (South Korea):** For Stemming the destructive tide of youth violence. **Ko Swe Win (Myanmar):** For Building the quality and force of media’s truth-telling. **Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (The Philippines):** For Nurturing the gift and unifying power of music.

■ GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

The government instituted this ₹ 1 crore prize on the lines of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995. It is the highest Civilian International award by the Govt. of India. The winner of 2020 is Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (Bangladesh’s Father of the Nation).

■ MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2020

Scottish novelist and writer Douglas Stuart was on November 19, 2020 awarded the prestigious Booker Prize for the year 2020 for his well-acclaimed debut novel ‘Shuggie Bain’ set in the background of his home city Glasgow in 1980s.

■ INDIRA GANDHI PRIZE FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The award was instituted in the memory of Mrs. Indira Gandhi to foster creative cooperation among nations of the world. The award for 2019 has been given to renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough. This prize carries ₹ 25 lakh and a citation.

■ OSCAR AWARD

This prestigious award of film world is given annually by 'National Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences' of America.

92nd Oscar Award (Declared in 2020)

The grand ceremony of the 92nd Academy Awards or Oscar Awards was held on February 09, 2020 in Los Angeles, California. The winners are: **Best Picture:** Parasite; **Best Actor:** Joaquin Phoenix (Joker); **Best Actress:** Renee Zellweger (Judy); **Best Director:** Bong Joon Ho (Parasite); **Best Supporting Actor:** Brad Pitt (Once Upon a Time in Hollywood); **Best Supporting Actress:** Laura Dern (Marriage Story); **Best Original Screenplay:** Bong Joon Ho and Han Jin Won (Parasite); **Best Adapted Screenplay:** Taika Waititi (Jojo

Rabbit); **Best Animated Film:** Toy Story 4; **Best Foreign Language Film:** Parasite; **Best Documentary Film:** American Factory; **Best Original Song:** 'I'm Gonna Love me Again', (Rocketman).

■ MISS WORLD-2019

Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh has bagged the Miss World 2019 crown at an annual beauty pageant held in London on December 14, 2019 with France's Ophely Mezino adjudged first runner-up followed by India's Suman Rao as second runner-up.

■ MISS UNIVERSE-2019

South Africa's Zozibini Tunzi has been crowned Miss Universe for the year 2019, beating more than 90 contestants, including Miss India, from around the globe on December 8, 2019.

Highest Honours of Some Countries

Country	Highest Honour
India	Bharat Ratna
Pakistan	Nishan-e-Pakistan
Kuwait	Mubarak-Al-kabir Medal
Saudi Arabia	Shah Abdul Aziz Medal
Argentina	The Order of Sona Martin
Nicaragua	Augusto-Caesar Sandino Order
Vietnam	The order of the Golden Star
Hungary	The Order of Banner

Country	Highest Honour
Britain	Member of British Empire, Victoria Cross
Japan	Order of Moulovenice Sun
Denmark	Order of Diana Brog
France	Legend of Honour
America	Presidential Medal of Freedom
Germany	Pore Lee Merit Iron Cross
The Netherlands	Netherlands Lion





UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

Origin: UN Charter was signed by 50 members on June 26, 1945. It officially came into existence on October 24, 1945.

UN Charter: The Charter is the Constitution of the UNO and contains its aims and objectives and rules and regulations for its functioning.

Aims and Objectives: They are security, welfare and human rights.

Headquarters: New York.

Flag: The flag is light blue in colour, and emblazoned in white, in its centre is the UN symbol—a polar map of world embraced by twin olive branches open at the top.

Official Languages: The official languages of the UN are: English, French, Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Spanish. However, working languages are English & French only.

Main Organs of the UNO: There are six main organs:

- (1) General Assembly
- (2) Security Council
- (3) Economic and Social Council
- (4) Trusteeship Council

- (5) International Court of Justice,
- (6) Secretariat.

Secretary General of the U.N.O.

Name	Country	Tenure
Trygve Lie	Norway	(1946-53)
Dag Hammarskjöld	Sweden	(1953-61)
U. Thant	Myanmar	(1961-71)
Kurt Waldheim	Austria	(1972-81)
Javier Perez de Cuellar	Peru	(1982-91)
Dr. Boutros Ghali	Egypt	(1992-96)
Kofi Annan	Ghana	(1997-2006)
Ban Ki-moon	South Korea	(2007-2016)
Antonio Guterres	Portugal	(2017- ----)

- (1) **General Assembly:** It consists of representative of all members of the UN. Each member country has only one vote. It meets once a year and passes UN Budget.
- (2) **Security Council:** It is the Executive body of the UN and is mainly responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It has 15 members, 5 of which (USA, UK, France, Russia and China) are permanent members. The 10 non-permanent members are elected by General Assembly

for two-year term and are not eligible for immediate re-election.

- (3) **Economic and Social Council:** It has 54 members elected by General Assembly.
- (4) **Trusteeship Council:** It looks after interest of the people in areas not yet independent and leads them towards self-government.

- (5) **International Court of Justice:** It has 15 judges, no two of whom may be nationals of the same state. They are elected by General Assembly and Security Council for a term of 9 years. The Court elects its President and Vice-President for a 3-year term.

Years Observed by United Nations Organisation

1972	: International Book Year
1973	: Copernicus Year
1974	: World Population Year
1975	: International Women's Year
1979	: International Year of the Child
1981	: International Year of Disabled
1983	: World Communication Year
1985	: International Youth Year
1986	: International Year of Peace
1987	: International Year of Shelter for the Homeless
1990	: International Literacy Year
1992	: International Space Year
1993	: International Year for World's Indigenous People
1994	: International Year of Family
1995	: International Year of Tolerance
1996	: International Year for Eradication of Poverty
1998	: Human Rights Year
1999	: Year of Older Persons
2000	: Year of the Culture of Peace
2001	: International Year of Volunteer
2002	: International Year of Eco-tourism

2003	: International Year of Fresh Water
2004	: International Rice Year
2005	: International Year of Sports and Physical Education
2006	: International Year of Deserts and Desertification
2008	: International Year of Potato
2009	: International Year of Astronomy
2010	: International Year of Bio-diversity
2011	: International Year of Forest
2012	: International Year of Cooperatives
2013	: International Year of Water Cooperation
2014	: International Year of Family Farming
2015	: International year of Soil
2016	: International year of Pulses
2017	: International year of Sustainable Tourism for Development
2019	: International year of Indigenous Languages
2020	: International year of Plant Health
2021	: International Year of Peace and Trust

- (6) **Secretariat:** It is the Secretariat of the UN and is headed by the Secretary General.

Present Membership: At present 193 countries are members of the UNO. South Sudan is the latest entrant to this world organisation.

Famous International Organisations, Headquarters and Year of Establishment

International Organisations	Headquarters	Year of Establishment
United Nations Organisations (U.N.O.)	New York	1945
International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.)	Washington D.C.	1945
World Health Organisation (W.H.O.)	Geneva	1948
Food & Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	Rome	1945
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Geneva	1919
UNESCO	Paris	1946
International Court of Justice	The Hague	1946
Universal Postal Union (UPU)	Berne	1874
International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)	Montreal	1947
UNIDO	Vienna	1966
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Vienna	1957
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Washington D.C.	1956
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York	1965
UNICEF	New York	1946
International Maritime Organisation (IMO)	London	1948
World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)	Geneva	1950
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	Geneva	1865
Arab League	Cairo	1945
Commonwealth of Nations	London	1949
World Trade Organisation (WTO)	Geneva	1995
International Development Association (IDA)	Washington D.C.	1960
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	Washington D.C.	1945
World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)	Geneva	1967
Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)	Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	1969
European Union (EU)	Brussels	*
Red Cross	Geneva	1863
Interpol	Lyons	1923
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Manila	1966
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	Brussels	1949
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Jakarta	1967

* Changed form of EEC established in 1958.

OTHER IMPORTANT ALLIANCES/BODIES OF THE WORLD

Commonwealth of Nations: It is an important international body founded by Great Britain in 1931. It is a free

association of 54 sovereign independent States formerly under British rule. Important countries are: U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. **Headquarters:** London.

European Union (E.U.): It is the new name of European Economic Community (EEC) or European Common Market (ECM). Now a union of 27 European Nations.

Interpol: Established in 1923, it is the popular name of the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO). Its headquarter is in Lyons (France). It has got 190 member countries.

International Red Cross: Two International organisations are known respectively as **International Committee of the Red Cross** and the **League of Red Cross Societies**, both with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The first of these is a wholly inter-national agency unconnected with any national society, and attempts to maintain the basic Red Cross principles of Geneva Convention; the second agency is a federation of autonomous national Red Cross Societies designed to further co-operation among them.

Amnesty International: World- wide human right organisation. The organisation established on 28th May, 1961, it won the Nobel prize for Peace in 1977. Headquarters in London.

World Trade Organisation (W.T.O.): The new World Trade Organisation, which replaces the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), came into effect from January 1, 1995 with the backing of at least 85 founding members, including India. The WTO now comes as the third economic pillar of world-wide dimensions along with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): It is a group of 120 countries mostly developing. The principles of non-

alignment were defined in the Bandung (Indonesia). Declaration of 1955 and were reiterated in Brioni (Yugoslavia) Declaration of 1956 by Jawaharlal Nehru, J.B. Tito and Gamel Abdil Nasser. The first NAM Conference was held at Belgrade in 1961.

ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nation): ASEAN established in 1967. The objectives of ASEAN are to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, administrative and scientific field to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and promote regional peace and stability. Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar are its members.
Headquarters: Jakarta (Indonesia).

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO): The treaty was signed at Washington on April 4, 1949, by the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, UK and USA. Greece, Turkey, German Federal Republic, Spain joined later. Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic were admitted on March 19, 1999. Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia joined NATO on April 2, 2004.
Headquarters: Brussels (Belgium).

Asian Development Bank (ADB): Established in 1966, it is the Asian counterpart of the American Development Bank and African Development Bank with headquarters at Manila. It helps promote intra-regional trade.



WORLD



BASIC INFORMATION

Population : The world's human population is expected to increase by 2 billion in the next 30 years, from the present 7.7 billion to 9.7 billion in 2050, according to a new United Nations Report released on June 17, 2019. "The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights", published by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, provides a comprehensive overview of global demographic patterns and prospects. The study concluded that the world's population could peak around the end of the current century, at a level of nearly 11 billion.

Most Populous Country : China has the distinction of being the most populous country in the world with a massive share of the world's population—nearly 18.1 per cent. In July 2019, the population of China was estimated to be 1.398 billion.

Least Populous Country : The independent state with the smallest

population is the Vatican City or the Holy See, with 799 inhabitants (mid-2019).

Most Densely Populated Country : The most densely populated country in the world is Monaco with 19,289 persons per sq. km. in July, 2019.

Number of Countries : The world comprises of 196 sovereign states, that includes 193 members of the United Nations and three non members, viz., Kosovo, Taiwan and Vatican City. Other than this, there are 72 dependent areas and other entities.

Largest Country : The country with the largest area is Russia, with a total area of 1,70,75,000 sq. km., or 11.7 per cent of the world's total land area. It is 70 times larger than U.K., with a population of 144.43 million in mid-2019.

Smallest Country : The smallest independent country in the world is the State of the Vatican city or Holy See, which was made as an enclave within the city of Rome, Italy on February 11, 1929. The enclave has an area of 0.44 sq. km.

Smallest Republic : The world's smallest republic is Nauru, less than one degree south of the equator in the Central Pacific, which became independent on January 31, 1968. It has an area of 21 sq. km. and a population of 11,250 in mid-2019.

Most Populous urban agglomeration : Guanzhou in China with a population of 14.53 million was the most populous urban agglomeration in July 2019.

Largest City : The world's largest city, in area, is Jiuquan Gansu, China, which has an area of 1,67,996 square kilometre.

Highest Capital : The highest capital in the world, before the domination of Tibet by China, was Lhasa, at an elevation of 3,684 metres above sea level. La Paz, the administrative de facto capital of Bolivia, stands at an altitude of 3,631 metres above mean sea level.

Countries'/Cities' Names—Old and New

New Names	Old Names
Bangladesh	East Pakistan
Beijing	Peking
Belize	British Honduras
Benin	Dahomey
Botswana	Bechuanaland
Ethiopia	Abyssinia
Ghana	Gold Coast
Harare	Salisbury
Indonesia	Dutch East Indies
Iran	Persia
Iraq	Mesopotamia
Istanbul	Constantinople
Kinshasa	Leopoldville
Lesotho	Basutoland
Malawi	Nyasaland

New Names	Old Names
Malaysia	Malaya
Myanmar	Burma
Namibia	South West Africa
Holland	The Netherlands
Sri Lanka	Ceylon
St. Petersburg	Leningrad
Taiwan	Formosa
Thailand	Siam
Arab Republic of Egypt	United Arab Republic
Yangon	Rangoon
Democratic Republic of Congo	Zaire Republic of Congo
Zambia	Northern Rhodesia
Zimbabwe	Southern Rhodesia

Changed Names of Some Indian Cities/States

Old Names	New Names
Allahabad	Prayagraj
Aurangabad	Sambhajinagar
Banaras	Varanasi
Baroda	Vadodara
Bangalore	Bengaluru
Bombay	Mumbai
Calcutta	Kolkata
Calicut	Kozhikode

Old Names	New Names
Cochin	Kochi
Mughalsarai	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar
Madras	Chennai
Pondicherry	Puducherry
Trivandrum	Thiruvananthapuram
Uttaranchal	Uttarakhand
Orissa	Odisha

Sobriquets (Geographical Surnames) National Sobriquets

Bengal's Sorrow	Damodar River
City of Palaces	Kolkata
Gateway of India	Mumbai
Pink City	Jaipur
Paris of India	Jaipur
Manchester of India	Ahmedabad
Kashmir of South	Kerala
Son of Sea	Lakshadweep
Queen of Mountains	Mussourie
Iron City	Jamshedpur
Hollywood of India	Mumbai
Scotland of East	Meghalaya
City of Nababs	Lucknow
City of Temples & Ghats	Varanasi
Land of Five Rivers	Punjab
City of Golden Temple	Amritsar
Garden of India	Bangalore
Spice Garden of India	Kerala
City of Lakes	Srinagar

Twin City	Hyderabad- Secunderabad
City of Seven Islands	Mumbai
Diamond Harbour	Kolkata
Switzerland of India	Kashmir
Rice Bowl	Chhattisgarh
Fruit Bowl	Himachal Pradesh
Ganga of South	Godavari
Pitsburg of India	Jamshedpur
City of Bridges	Srinagar
Residence of God	Prayagraj
A Cross-road (Quadrivial) of National Highways	Kanpur
Heart of India	Delhi
Black River	Sharda
City of Festivals	Madurai
Queen of Deccan	Pune
Sorrow of Bihar	Kosi River

International Sobriquets

China's Sorrow	Hwang-Ho
City of Dreaming Spires	Oxford
Country of Rising Sun	Japan
Britain of the South	New Zealand
City of Skyscrapers	New York, U.S.A.
City of Golden Gate	San Francisco U.S.A.
City of Seven Hills	Rome, Italy
City of Magnificent Distances	Washington D.C. (U.S.A.)
Cockpit of Europe	Belgium
Dark Continent	Africa
Emerald Island	Ireland
Empire City	New York, U.S.A.
Eternal City	Rome, Italy
Forbidden City	Lhasa, Tibet
Gate of Tears	Bab-el-mandab, Jerusalem
Great White Way	Broadway, New York, U.S.A.
Gift of Nile	Egypt
Garden of England	Kent, England
Granite City	Aberdeen, Scotland

Herring Pond	Atlantic Ocean
Holy Land	Palestine
Hermit Kingdom	Korea
Island Continent	Australia
Island of Pearls	Bahrain
Island of Cloves	Zanzibar
Key to the Mediterranean	Gibraltar
Land of Golden Fleece	Australia
Land of the Kangaroo	Australia
Land of Golden Pagoda	Myanmar
Land of Humming Bird	Trinidad
Land of Lilies	Canada
Land of Maple	Canada
Land of Thousand Lakes	Finland
Land of Morning Calm	Korea
Land of Midnight Sun	Norway
Land of Cakes	Scotland
Land of the White Elephant	Thailand
Land of Thunderbolt	Bhutan
Never, Never Land	Prairies, N. Australia

32 ■ General Knowledge

Pearl of Antilles	Cuba
Pillars of Hercules	Strait of Gibraltar
Pearl of the Pacific	Guyayaquil Port of Ecuador
Playground of Europe	Switzerland
Quaker City	Philadelphia U.S.A.
Queen of the Adriatic	Venice, Italy
Roof of the World	Pamirs, Central Asia

Sick Man of Europe	Turkey
Sugar Bowl of the World	Cuba
Venice of the North	Stockholm, Sweden
White City	Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
Windy City	Chicago, U.S.A.
White Man's Grave	Guinea Coast
World's Loneliest	Serbia Tristan da Cunha
World's Breadbasket	Prairies of N. America

Name of Parliaments of Some Countries

Country	Name of Parliament
Afghanistan	Shora
Argentina	National Congress
Australia	Federal Parliament
Austria	National Assembly
Bangladesh	Jatiya Sangsad
India	Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
Bhutan	Tshogdu (National Assembly)
Britain	House of Commons and House of Lords
Canada	House of Commons and Senate
China	National People Congress
Denmark	Folketing
Iran	Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly)
Israel	Knesset
Japan	Diet
Myanmar	Pyithu Hluttaw (People's Assembly)
Nepal	Rashtriya Panchayat The Netherlands States-General

Country	Name of Parliament
Norway	Storting
Poland	Sejm
Russia	Federal Assembly (Council of the Federation and State Duma)
South Africa	National Assembly and Senate
Spain	Cortes Generales
Sweden	Riksdag
Switzerland	Federal Assembly (Nationalrat and Standerat)
North Korea	Supreme People's Assembly
South Korea	National Assembly
U.S.A.	Congress (Senate and House of Representatives)
Ethiopia	Federal Council and House of Representatives
Iceland	Alpingi
Bulgaria	National Assembly
Cuba	National Assembly of People's Power

■ CIVIL AVIATION

Some Famous International Airports

Country	Airport
India	Netajee Subhash Chandra Bose Airport (Kolkata), Anna Airport (Chennai), Chhatrapati Shivajee Airport (Mumbai), Indira Gandhi

Country	Airport
	International Airport (Delhi), Trivendrum Airport (Kerala), Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee Airport (Amritsar), Kempegowda Airport (Bengaluru)

Country	Airport
France	Charles de Gaulle (Paris)
Britain	Heathrow (London)
America	J.F. Kennedy Airport (New York)
China	Peking (Beijing)
Pakistan	Karachi, Lahore
Canada	Montreal

Country	Airport
Denmark	Costupe, Copenhagen
Japan	Narita and Heneda, Tokyo
Sweden	Stockholm
Singapore	Singapore
Sri Lanka	Colombo
Taiwan	Taipei

Famous International Air Services

Air Service	Name of Country
Air India	India
British Overseas Airways Corporation	Britain
Trans World Airlines	America
Russian Airlines	Russia
Japan Airlines	Japan
Pakistan International Airlines	Pakistan
Malaysia Airlines	Malaysia
Royal Nepal Airlines	Nepal
Swiss Airways	Switzerland
Air France	France
Kuwait Airways	Kuwait
Pan American World Airways	America

Air Service	Name of Country
K.L.M. Royal Airlines	The Netherlands (Holland)
Lufthansa Airlines	Germany
Iraqi Airways	Iraq
National Airlines	Iran
Quantas Airlines	Australia
Hong Kong Airlines	Hong-Kong
Egypt Airlines	Egypt
Slovak Airlines	Slovakia
S.I.A.	Singapore
Garuda Airways	Indonesia
Bangladesh Viman Sewa	Bangladesh
Air Lanka	Sri Lanka
Elitalia Airlines	Italy
Air Canada	Canada

Popular Nick Names of Some Famous Personalities

Nick Name	Personalities
Andhra Kesari	T. Prakasam
Anna	C.N. Anna Durai
Bang Bandhu	Sheikh Mujibur Rehman
Bapu	Mahatma Gandhi
Bard of Avon	William Shakespeare
Chachaji	Jawaharlal Nehru
Desh Bandhu	C.R. Das
Frontier Gandhi	Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan
Fuhrer	Adolf Hitler
G.B.S.	George Bernard Shaw
Grand Old Man of India	Dadabhai Naorji
Grand Old Man of Britain	Gladstone
Guru Dev	Rabindra Nath Tagore

Nick Name	Personalities
Guruji	M.S. Golwalkar
Iron Man of India	Sardar Patel
Lok Nayak	Jayaprakash Narayan
Lady with the Lamp	Florence Nightingale
Lal, Bal, Pal	Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal
Little Corporal	Napoleon Bonaparte
Lokmanya Mahamana	Bal Gangadhar Tilak Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya
Maid of Orleans	Joan of Arc
Maiden Queen	Queen Elizabeth I
Missile Man	A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Nick Name	Personalities
Man of Destiny	Napoleon Bonaparte
Netaji	Subhash Chandra Bose
Nightingale of India	Sarojini Naidu
Panditji	Jawahar Lal Nehru

Nick Name	Personalities
Punjab Kesari	Lala Lajpat Rai
Shastriji	Lal Bahadur Shastri
Uncle Ho	Ho Chi Minh
Wizard of the North	Walter Scott

Important Days

Date	Name
January 9	NRI Day
January 10	World Laughter Day
January 12	National Youth Day
January 15	Army Day
January 26	Republic Day, International Customs day
January 30	Martyr's Day, World Leprosy Eradication Day
2nd Sunday	World Marriage Day of February
February 24	Central Excise Day
February 28	National Science Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 15	World Disabled Day, World Consumer Rights Day
March 18	Ordnance Factories Day (India)
March 21	World Forestry Day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 22	World Day for Water
March 23	World Meteorological Day
March 24	World TB Day
April 5	National Maritime Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 22	Earth Day
May 1	Worker's Day
May 8	World Red Cross Day

Date	Name
May 17	World Telecommunication Day
May 24	Commonwealth Day
May 31	Anti-tobacco Day
June 5	World Environment Day
June (3rd Sunday)	Father's Day
June 21	World Yoga Day
July 11	World Population Day
August 6	Hiroshima Day
August 9	Quit India Day, Nagasaki Day
August 15	Indian Independence Day
August 29	National Sports Day
September 5	Teacher's Day, Sanskrit Day
September 8	World Literacy Day
September 14	Hindi Day (India)
September 16	World Ozone Day
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 8	Indian Air Force Day
October 9	World Post Office Day
October 16	World Food Day
October 24	UN Day
November 14	Children's Day
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day
December 10	Human Rights Day
December 23	Kisan Divas (Farmer's Day)

■ IMPORTANT CITIES, PLACES, BUILDINGS OF THE WORLD

Angkor Vat: It is a large group of old Hindu temples in Cambodia; a remnant of the Khmer civilisation. The temples

were constructed in the first half of the 12th century.

Big Ben: A clock on the tower of the British Parliament building, installed in 1856.

Bethlehem: A town in Jordan; birth place of Christ; a place of pilgrimage.

Cape Canaveral: Situated in Florida (U.S.A.), it is America's spaceship launching centre. Formerly it was known as **Cape Kennedy**.

Eiffel Tower: A tower in Paris (985 ft high); the principal landmark of the city; designed by a French Engineer for the Paris Exposition 1889.

Fleet Street: A street in London, where offices of newspapers are situated.

Golden Gate Bridge (U.S.A.): One of the world's longest suspension bridges, built in 1933-37 across the entrance (Golden Gate) of San Francisco Bay in California. It has a length of 9266 ft.

Harappa: Situated near Montgo-mery (Pakistan). The famous ruins throw light on 5000-year-old Indus Valley Civilisation.

Hiroshima: A city in Japan; it was the target of the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city (by U.S.A. on August 6, 1945); casualties numbered nearly 1,30,000 and ninety per cent of the city was levelled.

India Office Library (London): A museum of Indian historical works, collected by the British. The library consists of about 3,00,000 books, a large number of manuscripts in Sanskrit, Urdu, Persian and Arabic.

Kaaba: The inner shrine of the great Mosque at Mecca in Saudi Arabia. It is the most sacred place. Muslims face the Kaaba when praying.

Karakoram Highway: It is a 800-km all weather road linking border of China's Sinkiang province with Pakistan.

Leaning Tower of Pisa: A white marble monument (179 feet high) built in the 14th Century in Italy. It is inclined to one side.

Mohenjodaro: Situated in the Larkana District of Sind (Pakistan); ancient ruins throw light on 5,000-year-old Indus Valley Civilisation.

Oval, Leeds and Lords (England): Famous for cricket matches.

Panama Canal: Canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The canal is 50 miles long and has 12 locks. It was opened to traffic in August, 1914. The canal is administered by the U.S.A.

Pentagon (Washington, USA): It is a five-sided building housing the US Defence Department offices.

Burj Khalifa: It is a 162 storeyed structure built in Dubai having a height of 818 meter. It is now the highest structure of the world. Taipei 101 (508 meter) is now the second highest structure of the world.

Pyramids: Gigantic stone buildings built by the ancient Egyptians in 2700 B.C.; among the seven wonders of the world. The great pyramid at Giza is the largest. These pyramids were tombs for the pharaohs and other important people.

Scotland Yard: Headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Department in London. It is known all over world for its efficient working.

Sandhurst (England): Famous military training institution.

Sphinx: Mythical beast of ancient Egypt; usually represented in art as having a

human head and the body of a lion. The most famous one is the great Sphinx, a colossal stone figure at Gizah built in the 26th Century BC.

Stonehenge: Prehistoric monument near Salisbury, England built in between 1800 B.C. and 1500 B.C.

Suez Canal: This canal is an important link between the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. It is about 160 km long and was constructed in 1869 by a French Engineer. It has shortened the

distance between Southampton (England) and Bombay (now Mumbai) by about 4,000 miles. The canal was nationalised by Col. Nasser on July 26, 1956. Port Said is the famous port at the entry from Mediterranean Sea.

Vatican: Official residence of the Pope (in Rome). The smallest country. It enjoys a separate entity in the world. (Area 0.44 sq. km).

Wall Street (New York): Famous stock exchange market.

Important Residences of the World

Residences	President/PM etc.
Buckingham Palace (London)	King/Queen of UK
10, Downing Street (London)	Prime Minister of UK
Elysee Palace (Paris)	The French President

Residences	President/PM etc.
Rashtrapati Bhavan (New Delhi)	The President of India
Vatican (Rome)	Pope
White House (Washington)	US President

HIGHEST, LONGEST, BIGGEST, LARGEST, DEEPEST, SMALLEST OF THE WORLD

- ◆ **Largest Airport :** King Fahd International Airport (near Dammam Saudi Arabia)
- ◆ **Highest Airport :** Lhasa Airport, Tibet
- ◆ **Tallest Animal :** Giraffe
- ◆ **Largest Animal :** Blue whale
- ◆ **Largest Bay :** Hudson Bay, Northern Canada
- ◆ **Fastest Bird :** Swift
- ◆ **Largest Bird :** Ostrich
- ◆ **Smallest Bird :** Humming bird
- ◆ **Tallest Building :** Burj Khalifa
- ◆ **Longest Big Ship Canal :** Suez Canal
- ◆ **Largest Cathedral :** Cathedral Church of New York
- ◆ **Largest Cemetry :** Ohlsdorf Cemetry (Hamburg, Germany)
- ◆ **Largest Church :** Balisca of St. Peter in the Vatican City, Rome.
- ◆ **Largest Continent :** Asia
- ◆ **Smallest Continent :** Australia
- ◆ **Largest Country (Area) :** Russia
- ◆ **Smallest Country (Area) :** Vatican City
- ◆ **Highest City :** Wenchuan, China
- ◆ **Longest Day :** June 21
- ◆ **Shortest Day :** December 22
- ◆ **Largest Delta :** Sunderban (India)
- ◆ **Largest Desert :** Sahara, North Africa

- ◆ **Largest Dome** : Singapore National Stadium.
- ◆ **Largest Dams** : Grand Coulee Dam, USA
- ◆ **Tallest Fountain** : King Fahd's Fountain (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia)
- ◆ **Largest Gulf** : Gulf of Mexico
- ◆ **Largest Island** : Greenland
- ◆ **Largest Lake** : Caspian Sea
- ◆ **Deepest Lake** : Baikal (Siberia)
- ◆ **Highest Lake** : Titicaca (Bolivia)
- ◆ **Largest Library** : United States Library of Congress, Washington".
- ◆ **Country with Largest Electorate** : India (over 90 crores)
- ◆ **Highest Mountain Peak** : Mount Everest (Tibet-Nepal border)
- ◆ **Highest Mountain Range** : The Himalayas, Asia
- ◆ **Largest Mountain Range**: The Andes (South America)
- ◆ **Largest Minaret** : Sultan Hassan Mosque (Egypt)
- ◆ **Tallest Minaret**: Qutub Minar, Delhi (India)
- ◆ **Largest Ocean** : Pacific Ocean
- ◆ **Deepest Ocean** : Pacific Ocean
- ◆ **Biggest Palace** : Vatican (Rome)
- ◆ **Largest Park** : National Park of North-Eastern (Greenland)
- ◆ **Largest Peninsula**: Arabia
- ◆ **Highest Plateau** : Pamir (Tibet)
- ◆ **Longest Platform** : Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh (India).
- ◆ **Largest Platform** : Grand Central Terminal, (Rly. Station), New York (USA)
- ◆ **Largest Planet** : Jupiter
- ◆ **Smallest Planet** : Mercury
- ◆ **Brightest Planet** : Venus
- ◆ **Nearest Planet to the Sun** : Mercury
- ◆ **Longest River** : Nile, Africa
- ◆ **Largest Sea** : South China Sea
- ◆ **Brightest Star**: Sirius A
- ◆ **Largest Sea-bird** : Albatross
- ◆ **Tunnel, Longest (railway)** : Gotthard, Switzerland
- ◆ **Largest Temple** : Angkor Wat (Cambodia)
- ◆ **Oldest Theatre** : Teatro Olimpico (Italy)
- ◆ **Tallest Tower** : Tokyo Sky Tree (634 m.)
- ◆ **Longest Wall** : Great Wall of China
- ◆ **Highest Waterfall**: Salto Angel (Venezuela)
- ◆ **Widest Waterfall** : Khone Falls (Laos)
- ◆ **Lowest Water Level**: Dead Sea
- ◆ **Longest Epic** : Mahabharata
- ◆ **Rainiest Place** : Mawsynram, near Cherrapunji (India)
- ◆ **Highest Road** : Leh-Nobra, Ladakh division, India.
- ◆ **Highest Volcano** : Ojos deln Salado, (Argentina) Chile
- ◆ **Largest Volcano** : Manuna Lea (Hawaii)
- ◆ **Lightest Gas** : Hydrogen
- ◆ **Fastest Animal** : Cheetah (Leopard)
- ◆ **Biggest Flower**: Rafflesia (Java)
- ◆ **Longest Corridor** : Rameshwaram Temple (India)
- ◆ **Largest Democracy**: India
- ◆ **Biggest Airbus** : Double Decker A-380

Famous Religions, Founders, Holy Books & Places of Worship

Religion	Founder	Holy Books	Place of Worship
Hinduism	Hinduism has no one Founder. (This religion is based upon the religion of original Aryan Settlers)	Ramayan, Vedas, Puranas and Geeta	Temple
Sikh	Guru Nanak Dev	Guru Granth Sahib	Gurdwara
Christianity	Jesus Christ	Bible	Church
Islam	Prophet Mohammed	Koran (Quran)	Mosque
Parsi	Zoroaster	Zend Avesta	Fire Temple
Jainism	Adinath Rishavdev	Jain Granth	Jain Temple
Buddhism	Gautam Buddha	Tripitaka	Buddha Temple
Jew	Moosa	Torah	Synagogue

Principal Ten Language of the World

Language	Speaker of the Language (In Millions)
Chinese	1298.6
English	378.3
Hindi	260.0
Spanish	442.4
Russian	153.9

Language	Speaker of the Language (In Millions)
Arabic	315.3
Bengali	242.7
Portuguese	222.7
Japanese	128.2
Lahnda	118.9

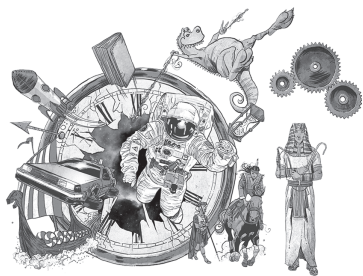
Source : The World Almanac 2019.

Intelligence Agencies of Some Prominent Countries

Country	Intelligence Agency
India	Research & Analysis Wing (RAW), Intelligence Bureau (I.B.), Central Bureau of Investigation (C.B.I.)
Pakistan	Inter Service Intelligence (I.S.I.)
U.S.A.	Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Britain	Military Intelligence (M.I.)-5 and 6, Special Branch, Ultra, Joint Intelligence Organisation
Israel	Mosad
Egypt	Mukhabarat

Country	Intelligence Agency
Japan	Nicho
Russia	K.G.B. (Komitel Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosty) (Committee for State Security)
Canada	Security Intelligence Service
S. Africa	Bureau of State Security
Iran	Sabak
Iraq	Al-Mukhabarat
Australia	Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation
France	S.D.E.C.E.
Spain	C.E.S.I.D.
Cuba	D.G.I.





WORLD HISTORY

DIFFERENT AGES

Ice Age : Period, beginning from 10,00,000 years ago in which a series of ice caps covered most of the northern parts of the earth.

Stone Age : Period, in which men used tools and weapons made of stone. It began about 1,00,000 years ago.

Bronze Age : Period, when people used bronze tools; period from 3,000 to 1,000 B.C.

Iron Age : Period, when people first used iron tools and weapons. It began at about 1,200 BC and lasted for 1,000 years.

Augustine Age : It refers to the reign of the Emperor Augustus; 27 BC to 14 BC in Latin History.

Dark Age : Period, from the fall of Rome in 476 AD till 1000 AD.

Middle Age : Period, between ancient times and the modern period often given as between the fall of Roman Empire in the 5th century and the Renaissance in the 15th.

Elizabethan Age : Period of the feudal system in Europe from 700 to 1400 AD.

Machine Age : Name given to the period of industrialisation in Britain, began in 1750.

Age of Reason : The 18th century, when philosophy was gaining ground in Europe.

Victorian Age : Period, when Queen Victoria reigned, *i.e.*, 1837-1901. It was an age of technological progress and public morality.

Atomic Age : Period since the explosion of the first atom bomb at Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16, 1945.

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILISATION

The First Phase : The first phase of the beginning of the civilisation called Neolithic Revolution, began when man settled in the villages and became a farmer.

The Second Phase : The second phase was when writing started. This happened in early Bronze Age (3200 to 2000 B.C.). Writing first developed in Egypt, southern Mesopotamia and in southwest Iran.

The Third Phase: The third phase began when Summerian city states developed. It happened between 3100 to 2570 B.C.

The Fourth Phase : The fourth phase was that of the setting up of empires. The Summerian city states were incorporated into a powerful empire in about 2370 B.C. by Sargon of Agade. The climax of this phase was when the Persian empire, the largest known empire, came into being.

The Fifth Phase : In the fifth phase, civilisation shifted from Asia to Mediterranean where it remained for the next 1000 years. There were city

states in Greece. During this phase, there were two other important influences on civilisation **(i)** that of Confucius **(ii)** that of Buddha. Confucius, the Chinese philosopher, gave theories which shaped the political organisation of China for many centuries. Similarly, the teachings of Buddha exercised a powerful influence on the civilisation of the Indian subcontinent.

The Indian Empire declined after the death of King Ashoka (232 B.C.). The Chinese Empire declined after the death of the emperor Wu Ti. Then appeared the famous Roman empire when King Romulus founded Rome. It came to an end in 476 A.D.

Passing through the Middle Age civilisation entered the modern era. Many movements helped the development of civilisation.

■ IMPORTANT HISTORICAL DATES OF THE WORLD

B.C.

- ◆ **776:** First Olympiad in Greece
- ◆ **323:** Alexander dies at Babylone
- ◆ **221:** Great Wall of China completed
- ◆ **4:** Birth of Jesus

A.D.

- ◆ **30:** Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- ◆ **570:** Birth of Prophet Mohammed at Mecca
- ◆ **622:** Hizari era started, Hazrat Mohammad went from Macca to Madina

- ◆ **1453:** Renaissance in Europe
- ◆ **1492:** Columbus discovered America
- ◆ **1498:** Sea-route to India discovered (Vasco Da Gama)
- ◆ **1668:** Despotic rule of Stuarts ended, and the Parliamentary rule began in England
- ◆ **1775:** Declaration of American Independence (4th July)
- ◆ **1789:** French revolution
- ◆ **1804-25:** Industrial Revolution in England

- ◆ **1815:** Battle of Waterloo — Napoleon was defeated and sent to St. Helena where he died in captivity
- ◆ **1865:** Abraham Lincoln assassinated
- ◆ **1896:** Olympic Games started in Athens
- ◆ **1904:** Russia-Japan war
- ◆ **1914-18:** World War I (Aug., 1914-Nov. 11, 1918)
- ◆ **1917:** Revolution in Russia, the Czar assassinated
- ◆ **1920:** The League of Nations founded
- ◆ **1933:** Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany
- ◆ **1939-45:** World War II
- ◆ **1945:** First Atom Bomb dropped on Hiroshima (Aug.6) and Nagasaki (Aug.9); UNO established (Oct.24)
- ◆ **1948:** Independence of Burma (4th January), Sri Lanka (6th February); Jews declared State of Israel in Palestine
- ◆ **1953:** Mt. Everest conquered by Hillary and Tenzing (May 29)
- ◆ **1957:** Artificial earth satellites (Sputniks I and II) launched by Russia
- ◆ **1963:** American president John F. Kennedy assassinated
- ◆ **1969:** American astronauts land on moon (July 21)
- ◆ **1973:** Watergate Scandal in U.S.A.; U.S.A. launched Skylab - the first Space Laboratory
- ◆ **1975:** Communists capture Cambodia and South Vietnam; Everest scaled by first woman Mrs. Juniko Tabei; a Japanese housewife; Coup in Bangladesh - Sheikh Mujib killed; Apollo-Soyuz joint flight
- ◆ **1976:** Unification of Vietnam; Death of Mr. Mao-tse Tung
- ◆ **1977:** America makes neutron bomb; Army seizes power in Pakistan
- ◆ **1978:** World's first test-tube baby born in England
- ◆ **1980:** Iran-Iraq war
- ◆ **1982:** Falkland war; Egypt regains Sinai peninsula
- ◆ **1984:** Hong Kong accord signed (UK-China)
- ◆ **1985:** SAARC comes into being in Dhaka
- ◆ **1986:** Fire in Russia's Chernobyl nuclear power plant.
- ◆ **1988:** Gorbachev elected USSR President; Bush elected US President.
- ◆ **1989:** Non-Communist government installed in Romania (Dec 25).
- ◆ **1990:** Nelson Mandela released after 27 years in prison (Feb 11); Two German states unite (Oct 3).
- ◆ **1991:** Gulf War started (Jan 17-Feb 27); USSR dissolved (Dec. 21)
- ◆ **1992:** Boutros Ghali elected new UN Secretary-General (Jan 1); Bill

42 ■ General Knowledge

Clinton elected 42nd US President (Nov. 4).

- ◆ **1993:** Treaty to ban chemical weapons signed in Paris (Jan. 15).
- ◆ **1994:** First non-white government in South Africa under Presidency of Nelson Mandela (May 10).
- ◆ **1995:** WTO comes into existence (Jan. 1); Agreement on Palestinian self-rule of the West Bank (Sep 24); G-15 Summit (Buenos Aires) (Nov).
- ◆ **1996:** Atlanta Olympic (July 20-Aug 4); Kofi Annan of Ghana is the new UN Secretary General (Dec. 17).
- ◆ **1997:** Ninth SAARC Summit (May 12-14); NASA spacecraft Pathfinder landed on Mars (July 4).
- ◆ **1998:** Pakistan conducts Nuclear Tests (May 28); US Missiles hit terrorist bases in Afghanistan and Sudan (Aug 20); The birth of Euro Currency (Dec 31).
- ◆ **1999:** Colonel Eileen Collins became the first woman in the space history to command a space mission (July 23).
- ◆ **2000:** XXVIII Olympic Game starts in Sydney (Sept 15); George Bush elected President of USA (Dec. 16).
- ◆ **2001:** World Trade Center and the Pentagon Headquarters in USA attacked by terrorists (Sep. 11).
- ◆ **2002:** Xanana Gusnao become the first President of the World's 192nd

independent state East Timor (May 20).

- ◆ **2003:** Space Shuttle Columbia of USA exploded, all the seven member including Kalpana Chawla of Indian origin died (Feb. 1).
- ◆ **2004:** Opportunity Probe Landed on Mars (Jan. 25); Earthquake Tsunami Killed thousands across nine nations (Dec. 26).
- ◆ **2005:** Bhutan unveiled its first constitution (March 26); Iraq's first elected government sworn in (May 3).
- ◆ **2006:** SAFTA became operational (Jan. 1); Saddam Hussain is executed (Dec. 30).
- ◆ **2007:** Japan launched first defence ministry since World War-II (Jan. 9); Australia won World Cup Cricket 2007 (continuous third time) (April 28).
- ◆ **2008:** Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) becomes the first PM of Republican Nepal (August 15); 29th Olympic Games (8-24 August) ended in Beijing (August 24).
- ◆ **2009:** Barack Obama sworn in as the 44th President of USA (Jan. 20); 15th NAM Summit held in Sharm-El-Sheikh (Egypt) (July 16).
- ◆ **2010:** Dubai opened world's tallest skyscraper-Burj Khalifa (Jan. 4); 7.0

magnitude quake hit Haiti, more than Lakh died (Jan. 14); US, Russia signed nuclear arms pact (April 8).

- ◆ **2011:** Dilma Rousseff sworn in as Brazil's first woman prez (Jan. 1); US forces killed Osama-bin-Laden in Pakistan (May 1); South Sudan became World's newest country (July 9).
- ◆ **2012:** Myanmar pardons as number of prominent political prisoners (Jan. 13); 30th Olympic games (27th July to 12 August) ended in London (August 12).
- ◆ **2013:** UN Clinches global deal on cutting mercury emissions (Jan. 19); XI Jinping takes over as China's president (March 14); Iran, 6 world powers in landmark deal (Nov. 24).
- ◆ **2014:** Sheikh Hasina is sworn in as Bangladesh PM for 3rd term (Jan. 12); Pak and Taliban start peace talk (Feb. 6); 17th Asian Games (19 September to 4 October) ended in Incheon (S. Korea) (October 4).
- ◆ **2015:** Pakistan House passes Army Court Bill (Jan. 6); Australia lift ICC World Cup for a record 5th time (March 29); A massive earthquake hit Nepal, more than 5000 dead (April 25).
- ◆ **2016:** China's 2-child policy takes effect (Jan. 1); Spotlight, Leo shine

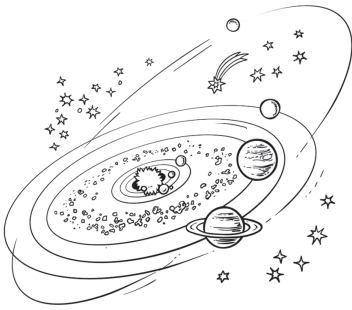
at Oscars (Feb. 29); West Indies make history by clinching ICC men's and women's T20 crown (April 3); 31st Olympic Games (5 August to 21 August) ended in Rio de Janeiro (August 21).

- ◆ **2017:** Thailand King orders Constitution amendment (Jan. 10); Donald Trump sworn in as the 45th President of USA (Jan. 20); Moonlight bags oscar for Best Picture (Feb. 27); US repeals net neutrality rules (Dec. 15).
- ◆ **2018:** US blocks \$ 255 m. military aid to Pakistan (Jan. 2); End of Castros' 60-year rule in Cuba as Diaz-Canel takes over as new president (April 19); Vladimir Putin sworn in for fourth term as Russia President (May 7); Imram Khan takes Oath as Pakistan's 22nd PM (Aug. 18).
- ◆ **2019:** Sheikh Hasina sworn in as Bangladesh PM for fourth term (Jan. 7); EU adds UAE to tax haven blacklist (March 12); 49 killed in racial terror attack on 2 mosques in New Zealand (March 15); England won World Cup Cricket (July 14); US, Russia withdraw from cold war-era arms treaty (Aug. 2); HongKong Chief agrees to withdraw extradition law (Sep. 04); Boris Johnson sweeps UK polls (Dec. 13).

44 ■ General Knowledge

- ◆ **2020:** Top Iran general Soleimani killed in US drone strike (Jan. 3); UK finally left the EU (Jan. 31); Arab League rejects US Middle East plan (Feb. 1); Russia holds 75th Victory day parade in Moscow (June 24); Micheal Martin elected new Prime Minister of Ireland (June 30); Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit held in Moscow (Sep. 04); Joe Biden elected new President of US (Dec. 14); Steve Smith gets ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Decade Award-2020 (Dec. 28).
- ◆ **2021:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) and European Investment Bank (EIB) join Hands to protect Oceans by supporting blue economy (Jan. 15); Joe Biden takes over as the 46th President of the USA (Jan. 20); 1st ever Treaty for prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted by UN Comes into force (Jan. 22); Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Re-elected as President of Uganda for 6th term (Jan. 25); Irakli Garibashvili elected new Prime Minister of Georgia (Feb. 26); China announces sanctions on British individuals & entities (March 26).





THE UNIVERSE

THE SOLAR SYSTEM : SOME FACTS

Number of Planets: 8—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Largest most

Massive planet	Jupiter
Brightest planet	Venus
Brightest star	Sirius
Fastest orbiting planet	Mercury
Longest (Synodic) day	Mercury
Most moons	Saturn-82
Planet with largest moon	Jupiter
Greatest average density	Jupiter
Tallest mountain	Earth
Strongest magnetic fields	Jupiter
Most circular orbit	Venus
Shortest (synodic) day	Jupiter
Hottest planet	Venus
No moons	Mercury, Venus
Planet with moon with most eccentric orbit	Neptune
Lowest average density	Saturn
Deepest Oceans	Jupiter
Greatest amount of liquid on the surface	Earth

The Earth: Facts and Data

Composition of the Earth: Aluminium (0.4%), Sulphur (2.7%), Silicon (13%),

Oxygen (28%), Calcium (1.2%), Nickel (2.7%), Magnesium (17%), Iron (35%)

Surface area	: 510100500 sq km
Land Surface (29.1%)	: 148950800 sq km
Ocean Surface (70.9%)	: 361149700 sq km
Type of water	: 97% salt, 3% fresh
Total area of water	: 382672000 sq km
Equatorial diameter	: 12753 km
Equatorial Circumference	: 40075 km
Polar Circumference	: 40007 km
Polar diameter	: 12710 km
Equatorial radius	: 6376 km
Polar radius	: 6335 km
Mass (estimated weight)	: 594×10^{19} metric tons
Mean distance from the Sun	: 149407000 km
Earth's orbit speed (around sun)	: 107320 kmph
Period of Revolution (round the sun)	: 365 days 5 hrs 48 min. 45.51 seconds
Time of Rotation (on its axis)	: 23 hrs 56 min 4.09 seconds
Inclination of the axis (to the plane of the ecliptic)	: $23^{\circ}27'$

Solar Statistics

Distance from the Earth : Absolute Visual	149.8 million km
Magnitude	: 4.75
Diameter	: 1,384,000 km
Core Temperature	: 15000000 K
Photosphere Temperature	: 5770 K
Rotation as seen from the Earth (at the equator)	: 25.38 days

Rotation as seen from the Earth (near the poles)	: 33 days
Chemical Composition	: Hydrogen 71% Helium 26.5% Other elements 2.5%
Age	: About 4.5 billion years
Expected lifetime of a normal star	: About 10 billion years

Oceans of the World

Pacific	166,241,000 sq km
Atlantic	86,557,000 sq km

Indian	73,427,000 sq km
Arctic	9,485,000 sq km

Longest Rivers

Name	Country/Continent	Length Kilometres
Nile	Africa	6690
Amazon	S. America	6437
Mississippi-Missouri	USA	6020
Yangtze-Kiang	China	5494
Ob-Irtysh	Russia	5410
Hwang Ho	China	4344
Lena	Russia	4400

Name	Country/Continent	Length Kilometres
Niger	Africa	4180
Murray-Darling	Australia	3780
Volga	Russia	3690
St. Lawrence	Canada (USA)	4023
Orinoco	S. America	2575
Danube	Europe	2850
Indus	Asia	2900

Major Riverside Cities

City	River	Country
Alexandria	Nile	Egypt
Amsterdam	Amsel	Netherland
Ankara	Kizil	Turkey
Baghdad	Tigris	Iraq
Bangkok	Menam	Thailand
Belgrade	Danube	Yugoslavia
Berlin	Spree	Germany
Budapest	Danube	Hungary
Cairo	Nile	Egypt
Chittagong	Karnaphuli	Bangladesh
Karachi	Indus	Pakistan
Khartoum	Blue & White Nile	Sudan

City	River	Country
Lahore	Ravi	Pakistan
Lisbon	Tagus	Portugal
Liverpool	Mersey	England
London	Thames	England
Moscow New	Moskva	Russia
Orleans	Mississippi	USA
New York	Hudson	USA
Paris	Seine	France
Rangoon (Yangon)	Irawadi	Myanmar
Rome	Tiber	Italy

India's Cities, Rivers, States

City	River	State
Agra	Yamuna	U.P.
Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	Gujarat
Ayodhya	Saryu	U.P.
Badrinath	Alaknanda	Uttarakhand
Cuttack	Mahanadi	Odisha
Delhi	Yamuna	Delhi
Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra	Assam
Guwahati	Brahmaputra	Assam
Haridwar	Ganges	Uttarakhand
Hyderabad	Musi	Telangana
Jabalpur	Narmada	M.P.
Kanpur	Ganges	U.P.

City	River	State
Kolkata	Hooghly	W. Bengal
Kota	Chambal	Rajasthan
Lucknow	Gomti	U.P.
Ludhiana	Sutlej	Punjab
Nasik	Godawari	Maharashtra
Patna	Ganga	Bihar
Sambalpur	Mahanadi	Odisha
Srinagar	Jhelum	J&K
Surat	Tapti	Gujarat
Tiruchirapalli	Cauvery	Tamil Nadu
Varanasi	Ganges	U.P.
Vijayawada	Krishna	A.P.

Largest Deserts of the World

Subtropical	
Sahara, North Africa	94,00,000 sq. km.
Kalahari,	
Southern Africa	9,00,000 sq. km.
Thar, India/Pakistan	2,00,000 sq. km.
Great Sandy, Australia	4,00,000 sq. km.

Cool Coastal	
Atacama, Chile S.A.	1,40,000 sq. km
Cool Winter	
Gobi, China	13,00,000 sq. km.
Colorado, Western	
USA	3,37,000 sq. km.
(also called the painted desert)	

Atmosphere

(Composition of Gases in Atmosphere)

Nitrogen	78.03%
Oxygen	20.99%
Argon	0.93%
Carbon dioxide	0.03%
Hydrogen	0.01%

Neon	0.0018%
Helium	0.0005%
Crypton	0.0001%
Xenon	0.000,005%
Ozone	0.000,0001%

Principal Mountain Peaks of the World

S. No.	Mountains	Height in Metres	Range	Date of First Ascent
1.	Mount Everest	8,848	Himalayas	May 29, 1953
1.	Mount Everest	8,848	Himalayas	May 29, 1953
2.	K-2 (Godwin Austen)	8,611	Karakoram	July 31, 1954
3.	Kanchenjunga	8,597	Himalayas	May 25, 1955
4.	Lhotse	8,511	Himalayas	May 18, 1956
5.	Makalu I	8,481	Himalayas	May 15, 1955
6.	Dhaulagiri I	8,167	Himalayas	May 13, 1960
7.	Mansalu I	8,156	Himalayas	May 9, 1956
8.	Chollyo	8,153	Himalayas	Oct. 19, 1954
9.	Nanga Parbat	8,124	Himalayas	July 3, 1953

S. No.	Mountains	Height in Metres	Range	Date of First Ascent
10.	Annapurna I	8,091	Himalayas	June 3, 1950
11.	Gasherbrum I	8,068	Karakoram	July 5, 1958
12.	Broad Peak I	8,047	Karakoram	June 9, 1957
13.	Gasherbrum II	8,034	Karakoram	July 7, 1956
14.	Shisha Pangma (Gosainthan)	8,014	Himalayas	May 2, 1964
15.	Gasherbrum III	7,952	Karakoram	Aug. 11, 1975

INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

It roughly corresponds to 180°E or W meridian of longitude which falls on the opposite side of the Greenwich

meridian and the date changes by one day (i.e. 24 hours), as this line is crossed. On crossing this line from east to west a day is added, and a day is subtracted on crossing it from west to east.

Important Boundary Lines

Boundary Line	Countries	Boundary Line	Countries
Durand Line	Pakistan and Afghanistan	17th Parallel	The line which defined the boundary between North Vietnam and South Vietnam before the two were united.
Hindenberg Line	Germany-Poland	38th Parallel	North Korea and South Korea
Maginot Line	France and Germany	49th Parallel	U.S.A. and Canada
Mannerheim Line	Russia-Finland		
Mc Mahon Line	India and China		
Order Niesse Line	Germany-Poland		
Radcliff Line	India-Pakistan		
Seigfrid Line	Germany-France		

Famous Straits of the World

<i>Strait</i>	<i>Between</i>	<i>Country</i>
Malacca Strait	Andaman Sea and South China Sea	Indonesia
Palk Strait	Mannar and Bay of Bengal	India-Sri Lanka
Magellan Strait	Pacific and South Atlantic Ocean	Chile
Dover Strait	English Channel and North Sea	England-France
Berring Strait	Berring Sea and Chukasi Sea	Alaska-Russia
Sugaroo Strait	Japan Sea and Pacific Ocean	Japan
Sunda Strait	Java and Indian Ocean	Indonesia
Gibraltar Strait	Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean	Spain
Harmuj Strait	Persia and Bay of Oman	Oman-Iran
Hudson Strait	Bay of Hudson and Atlantic Ocean	Canada

WORLD'S FAMOUS OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

White Paper: India; **Orange Book:** Netherlands; **Yellow Book:** France;

Green Book: Italy and Iran; **White Book:** Portugal, China and Germany; **Grey Book:** Japan and Belgium.

Famous Newspapers of the World

Newspaper	Place of Publishing	Language
Daily News	New York (America)	English
Guardian	London (Britain)	English
Pravada	Moscow (Russia)	Russian
Al-Ahram	Cairo (Egypt)	Arabic
Merdeca	Jakarta (Indonesia)	Indonesian
Times	London (Britain)	English
People's Daily	Beijing (China)	Chinese
New Statesman	Britain	English
Daily Mirror	Britain	English
Hindu, Hindustan, Times of India, Tribune, Statesman, Indian Express, Economic Times	India	English
Hindustan, Nav Bharat Times, Dainik Bhaskar, Dainik Jagaran, Punjab Kesari	India	Hindi

Signals/Signs and Meaning

Signal/Sign	Meaning	Signal/Sign	Meaning
Red Triangle	Family Planning	Yellow Flag	Vehicles with patients of contagious diseases
Red Cross	Medical Help	Two Bones across with a Skull	Danger of electricity
Red Light	Danger, 'Stop' for the movement of vehicles	Half mast flown	National mourning
Green Light	Go	Flag	Sign of civilization
Olive Branch	Peace	Lotus and culture	Sign of Progress
White Pigeon or Dove	Peace	Wheel (Chakra)	Sign of Progress
Black Strip on Arm	(i) Opposition (ii) Sorrow	A blind folded woman with scale in hand	Sign of Justice
Black Flag	Opposition	Reversed flown	National calamity flag
Red Flag	(i) Danger (ii) Revolution		
White Flag	Treaty or Surrender		

National Emblems of Important Countries

Country	National Emblem	Country	National Emblem
America	Golden Rod	Italy	White Lily
Australia	Kangaroo	Israel	Candelabrum
Ireland	Shamrock	Iran	Rose

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Country	National Emblem	Country	National Emblem
Canada	White Lily	Nepal	Kukri
Great Britain	Rose	Pakistan	Crescent
Chile	Candor and Huemul	Poland	Eagle
Germany	Corn Flower	France	Lily
Japan	Chrysanthemum	Belgium	Lion
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Bird	Bangladesh	Water Lily
Denmark	Beach	Mongolia	The Soyombo
Turkey	Crescent and Star	Russia	Double headed eagle
The Netherlands	Lion	Lebanon	Cedar Tree
New Zealand	Kiwi, Fern	Sudan	Secretary Bird
Norway	Lion	Syria	Eagle
		India	Lion Capital

The Continents of the World

Name	Area (In sq. km.)	Per cent of Total Land Area on Earth
Asia (Including the Middle East)	44,579,000	30.0
Africa	30,065,000	20.3
North America	24,256,000	16.3
South America	17,819,000	12.0
Antarctica	13,209,000	8.9
Europe	9,938,000	6.7
Australia (Plus Oceania)	7,687,000	5.2





INDIAN CONSTITUTION AND POLITY

Indian Constitution is a comprehensive document and it is the lengthiest written Constitution in the World.

The Preamble of the Constitution: “We the people of India, having solemnly resolved to Constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizen: **Justice:** Social, economic and political; **Liberty:** Of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; **Equality:** Of status and of opportunity, and to promote among them all; **Fraternity:** Assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. In our Constituent Assembly, this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this constitution.”

■ PARLIAMENT

Parliament is the national legislature of the Indian Union. It consists of two Houses known as the Council of States or the Rajya Sabha and the House of People or Lok Sabha. The President is an integral part of Parliament.

Rajya Sabha: The Rajya Sabha is the Upper House of the Parliament and it is constituted of representatives from the States or the Constituent units of the Indian Union. It is a permanent body, one third of its members retiring after every two years. Its maximum strength is 250. Out of these, twelve members are nominated by the President from well-known personalities in the realm of Science, Art, Literature and Social Service. Rest of 238 representatives of the States and Union Territories are elected. Rajya Sabha at present consists of 245 members.

Lok Sabha: The Lok Sabha whose life is five years, is the Lower House of Parliament and comprises of members directly elected by the people. The House of the people (Lok Sabha) at present consists of 545 members of these, 543 members are directly elected from the states and Union Territories while 2 are nominated by the President from Anglo-Indian community. The House of the People shall continue for five years (unless

sooner dissolved) from the date of its meeting and no longer and the expiry of the said period of 5 years shall operate as dissolution of the House.

Parliamentary Committees: There are several Parliamentary Committees to assist the Parliament in its deliberations. These are appointed or elected by the respective Houses of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on a motion made or are nominated by their presiding officers, i.e., the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha respectively. Broadly, Parliamentary Committees are of two kinds—standing committees and ad-hoc committees. Among the Standing Committees, three are financial Committees: (i) Public Account Committee; (ii) Estimate Committee; (iii) Public undertaking Committee.

Ad-hoc Committees are appointed as the need arises and cease to exist when the work is over.

■ PRESIDENT

The President is the Constitutional head of the Republic of India. He is more or less the titular head of the executive. Really speaking, he is the constitutional head but not the real

executive. The real power is vested in the hands of the Council of Ministers.

Qualifications: (i) Indian citizen, (ii) age not less than 35 years, (iii) should have qualification for election to Lok Sabha, (iv) should not hold any office of profit, (v) should not be a Member of Parliament or State Legislature.

Powers: He makes appointments to all the constitutional posts. He can address either House of Parliament and dissolve Lok Sabha. All Bills passed by Parliament must receive his assent to become an Act. He issues ordinances when Parliament is not in session. No Money Bill can be introduced in Lok Sabha without his recommendation. He can grant pardon, reprieve or remit punishment and he can commute death sentences, can declare national emergency, state emergency and financial emergency.

Term of Office: The President holds the office for a period of five years. He is eligible for re-election.

Procedure for the removal of President: The President may be removed from office for violation of the constitution before the expiry of his term by impeachment (Article 56).

Presidents of India

Name	Tenure	
Dr. Rajendra Prasad*	26 January, 1950	— 13 May, 1962
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan	13 May, 1962	— 13 May, 1967
Dr. Zakir Hussain**	13 May, 1967	— 3 May, 1969
V.V. Giri (Acting)	3 May, 1969	— 20 July 1969
M. Hidayatullah (Acting)	20 July, 1969	— 24 August, 1969
V.V. Giri	24 August, 1969	— 24 August, 1974

Name	Tenure
Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed**	24 August, 1974 — 11 February, 1977
B.D. Jatti (Acting)	11 February, 1977 — 25 July, 1977
Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy***	25 July, 1977 — 25 July, 1982
Giani Zail Singh	25 July, 1982 — 25 July, 1987
R. Venkaraman	25 July, 1987 — 25 July, 1992
Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma	25 July, 1992 — 25 July, 1997
K.R. Narayanan	25 July, 1997 — 25 July, 2002
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	25 July, 2002 — 25 July, 2007
Pratibha Patil	25 July, 2007 — 25 July, 2012
Pranab Mukherjee	25 July, 2012 — 25 July, 2017
Ram Nath Kovind	25 July, 2017 —

* Rajendra Prasad was the only president who was elected for two consecutive terms.

** Dr. Zakir Hussain and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed expired in office.

*** Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, the only president who was elected unopposed.

VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President acts as the ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha). He is elected by an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. He must

be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age, and should be eligible for election as a member of the Council of States. Disputes in connection with election of a president or a vice-president are to be dealt with in accordance with Article-71. Such disputes shall be decided by the Supreme Court.

Vice-Presidents of India

Name	Tenure
Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	May 13, 1952 — May 12, 1962
Dr Zakir Hussain	May 13, 1962 — May 12, 1967
Varahagiri Venkata Giri	May 13, 1967 — May 03, 1969
Gopal Swarup Pathak	August 31, 1969 — August 30, 1974
B.D. Jatti	August 31, 1974 — August 30, 1979
Justice Muhammad Hidayatullah	August 31, 1979 — August 30, 1984
R. Venkataraman	August 31, 1984 — July 24, 1987
Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma	Sept. 03, 1987 — July 24, 1992
K.R. Narayanan	August 21, 1992 — July 24, 1997
Krishan Kant	August 21, 1997 — July 21, 2002
Bhairon Singh Shekhawat	August 19, 2002 — July 21, 2007
Mohammad Hamid Ansari	August 11, 2007 — August 10, 2017
M. Venkaiah Naidu	August 11, 2017 —

PRIME MINISTER

The Constitution lays down that there shall be a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. The Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet. Other Ministers are appointed by the President on his advice. He is the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha.

Prime Ministers of India

Name	Tenure
Jawahar Lal Nehru	August 15, 1947 — May 27, 1964
Gulzari Lal Nanda (Acting)	May 27, 1964 — June 9, 1964
Lal Bahadur Shastri	June 9, 1964 — January 11, 1966
Gulzari Lal Nanda (Acting)	January 11, 1966 — January 24, 1966
Indira Gandhi	January 24, 1966 — March 24, 1977
Morarji Desai	March 24, 1977 — July 28, 1979
Charan Singh	July 28, 1979 — January 14, 1980
Indira Gandhi	January 14, 1980 — October 31, 1984
Rajiv Gandhi	October 31, 1984 — December 2, 1989
Vishwanath Pratap Singh	Dec. 2, 1989 — November 10, 1990
Chandrashekar	Nov. 10, 1990 — June 21, 1991
P.V. Narasimha Rao	June 21, 1991 — May 16, 1996
Atal Behari Bajpayee	May 16, 1996 — June 1, 1996
H.D. Deve Gowda	June 1, 1996 — April 21, 1997
I.K. Gujral	April 21, 1997 — March 19, 1998
Atal Behari Bajpayee	March 19, 1998 — May 22, 2004
Dr. Manmohan Singh	May 22, 2004 — May 26, 2014
Narendra Modi	May 26, 2014 —

The Attorney General of India: The Attorney General of India is the first law officer of the Government of India. Though he is not a member of cabinet he has the right to speak in the House of Parliament, but he has no right to vote. The Attorney General of India shall be appointed by the President and shall hold office during his pleasure. His duty shall be to give advice on such legal matter from time to time as may be referred to him by the President.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is guardian of the public purse and it is his duty to see that not a *paisa* is spent out of consolidated fund of India or of a state without the authority of the appropriate legislature. He is appointed by President of India.

Speaker of Lok Sabha: Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from among its members. The Speaker will have the

final power to maintain order within the House of the People and to interpret its rules of procedure. Speaker decides whether a bill is a money bill or a non-money bill.

The Governor: The Governor is appointed by the President and holds office during the pleasure of the President. Apart from the power to appoint the council of ministers, if the governor finds that the government of state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution (Art. 356), he may send his report to the President who may assume to himself the functions of the government of the state. (This is popularly known as 'President's Rule').

Inter-State Councils: Article 263 provides for inter-state councils. The power of the President to set up Inter-State Councils not only for advising upon disputes but also for investigating and discussing subjects in which some or all of the states, or the Union and one or more of the states have common interest.

■ SCHEDULES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of India originally contained only eight schedules.

Presently there are 12 schedules in the constitution.

First Schedule: It consists the list of the States and Union territories. **Second**

Schedule: This Schedule is related to salary and allowances of the President, Governors, Speaker, Supreme Court and High Court Judges etc. **Third Schedule:**

Contains forms of oath and affirmation. **Fourth Schedule:** Contains allocation

of seats to each State and Union territory in the Council of States. **Fifth**

Schedule: Provides for administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes. **Sixth Schedule:**

Provides for administration of Tribal Areas in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. **Seventh Schedule:** Distribution

of powers and functions between the centre and state governments under three lists. **Eighth**

Schedule: The languages recognised by Parliament. **Ninth Schedule:** It contains

laws passed by the Union or States which cannot be taken to courts. **Tenth**

Schedule: Provisions as to disqualification on the ground of political defection. **Eleventh Schedule:** Provisions

regarding powers, authority etc. of Panchayati Raj institutions. **Twelfth**

Schedule: Provisions regarding powers, authority etc. of Municipalities etc.

Foreign Sources of Indian Constitution

Foreign Sources	Subject
Britain	Parliamentary system, collective responsibilities of Cabinet
America	Fundamental right, Citizenship, Independent Judiciary, Judicial review

Foreign Sources	Subject
Canada	Division of powers
Ireland	Directive principles
Germany	Emergency provisions
Russia	Fundamental duties
Australia	Concurrent list

Jurisdiction and Seat of High Courts

Name	Year	Territorial Jurisdiction	Seat
Allahabad	1866	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj (Bench at Lucknow)
Andhra Pradesh [#]	2019	Andhra Pradesh	Amravati
Bombay	1862	Maharashtra, Goa, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Mumbai (Benches at Nagpur, Panaji and Aurangabad)
Calcutta	1862	West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar	Kolkata (Circuit Bench at Port Blair)
Chhattisgarh	2000	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur
Delhi	1966	Delhi	Delhi
Guwahati	1948	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati (Benches at Kohima, Aizawl and Itanagar)
Gujarat	1960	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
Himachal Pradesh	1971	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
Jammu & Kashmir	1928	J & K, Ladakh	Srinagar and Jammu
Jharkhand	2000	Jharkhand	Ranchi
Karnataka	1884	Karnataka	Bengaluru (Circuit Benches at Dharwar and Gulbarga)
Kerala	1958	Kerala & Lakshadweep	Ernakulam
Madhya Pradesh	1956	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur (Benches at Gawalior and Indore)
Madras	1862	Tamil Nadu & Puducherry	Chennai (Bench at Madurai)
Orissa	1948	Odisha	Cuttack
Patna	1916	Bihar	Patna
Punjab and Haryana	1966	Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Rajasthan	1949	Rajasthan	Jodhpur (Bench at Jaipur)
Sikkim	1975	Sikkim	Gangtok
Uttarakhand	2000	Uttarakhand	Nainital
Tripura	2013	Tripura	Agartala
Meghalaya	2013	Meghalaya	Shillong
Manipur	2013	Manipur	Imphal
Telangana [*]	2019	Telangana	Hyderabad

High court of Andhra Pradesh to function at Amaravati from January 1, 2019.

* Originally known as Andhra Pradesh High Court and it was established on 5 November 1956 but it was renamed as High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad in 2014, renamed again as Telangana high Court on 1 January 2019.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Following fundamental rights are enjoyed by every Indian citizen, irrespective of caste, colour, creed and sex:

- 1. Right to Equality:** No special privileges, no distinction on grounds of religion, caste, creed and sex.
- 2. Right to Freedom:** The right to freedom of expression and speech,

the right to choose one's own profession, the right to reside in any part of the Indian Union.

3. **Right to Freedom to Religion:** Except when it is in the interest of public order, morality, health or other conditions, everybody has the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion freely.
4. **Cultural and Educational Rights:** The Constitution provides that every community can run its own institutions to preserve its own culture and language.
5. **Right against Exploitation:** Traffic in human beings and forced labour and the employment of children under 14 years in factories or mines, are punishable offences.
6. **Rights to Constitutional Remedies:** When a citizen finds that any of his fundamental rights has been encroached upon, he can move the Supreme Court, which has been empowered to safeguard the fundamental rights of a citizen (Article 32).

■ FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

The fundamental duties for the Indian citizens have been incorporated in the Constitution through the Constitution (42nd) Amendment Act, 1976. These duties are: **(i)** to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem; **(ii)** to cherish and follow the noble deeds which inspired our national struggle for freedom; **(iii)** to uphold and protect the sovereignty,

unity and integrity of India; **(iv)** to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so; **(v)** to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people transcending religious, regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women; **(vi)** to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture; **(vii)** to protect and improve natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures; **(viii)** to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform; **(ix)** to safeguard public property and to abjure violence; **(x)** to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement. **(xi)** who is parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between age of six and fourteen years.

■ DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

The Directive Principles of State Policy are contained in Article 36 to 51 in Part IV of the constitutions. Directive principles are not enforceable through courts. Main aim of Directive principles is to provide social and economic base of a genuine democracy.

Some Important Directive Principles:

- Provisions for adequate means of livelihood for all citizens (Art. 39).

58 ■ General Knowledge

- Right to work (Art. 41).
- Right to human condition of work and maternity relief (Art. 42).
- Right to a living wage and condition of work ensuring decent standard of life of worker (Art. 43).
- Common Civil Code (Art. 44).
- Prohibit consumption of liquor (Art. 47).
- Prevent slaughter of useful cattle (Art. 48).
- Organise Panchayati Raj (Art. 40).
- Separate the judiciary from the executive (Art. 50).
- Protect and maintain places of historic monuments (Art. 49).
- International peace (Art. 51).

Voting Age: The voting age in the election to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies has been reduced from 21 to 18 years by the Constitution (61st) Amendment Act, 1989.

■ UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (U.P.S.C.)

This Commission is responsible for (i) recruitment to all civil services and posts, under the Union Government by written examinations, interviews and promotions, and (ii) advising the

Government on all matters relating to methods of recruitment, principles to be followed in making promotions and transfers. Its Chairman is appointed by the President.

■ STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

The Union Government has constituted the Staff Selection Commission for recruitment to non-technical Group C and some of Group B posts in the central departments and in subordinate offices. The administrative Reforms Commission had recommended the setting up of such a Commission.

■ THE SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court of India, the highest Court of the country, consists of a Chief Justice and not more than 33 Judges appointed by the President. The Judges hold office till the age of 65. For appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court, a person must be a citizen of India and must have been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or Advocate of a High Court for at least ten years or he must be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist. The Supreme Court normally sits in New Delhi.

Chief Justices of India

S.No.	Name	Tenure		
1.	Harilal J. Kania	Jan. 26, 1950	—	Nov. 6, 1951
2.	M. Patanjali Sastri	Nov. 7, 1951	—	Jan. 3, 1954
3.	Mehar Chand Mahajan	Jan. 4, 1954	—	Dec. 22, 1954
4.	B.K. Mukherjee	Dec. 23, 1954	—	Jan. 31, 1956
5.	S.R. Das	Feb. 1, 1956	—	Sept. 30, 1959

S.No.	Name	Tenure	
6.	Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Sinha	Oct. 1, 1959,	— Jan. 31, 1964
7.	P.B. Gajendragadkar	Feb. 1, 1964	— March 15, 1966
8.	A.K. Sarkar	March 16, 1966	— June 29, 1966
9.	K. Subba Rao	June 30, 1966	— April 11, 1967
10.	K. N. Wanchoo	April 12, 1967	— Feb. 24, 1968
11.	M. Hidayatullah	Feb. 25, 1968	— Dec. 16, 1970
12.	J.C. Shah	Dec. 17, 1970	— Jan. 21, 1971
13.	S.M. Sikri	Jan. 22, 1971	— April 25, 1973
14.	A.N. Roy	April 26, 1973	— January 27, 1977
15.	M.H. Beg	Jan. 28, 1977	— Feb. 21, 1978
16.	Y.V. Chandrachud	Feb. 22, 1978	— July 11, 1985
17.	Prafullachandra Natvarlal Bhagwati	July 12, 1985	— Dec. 20, 1986
18.	R.S. Pathak	Dec. 21, 1986	— June 18, 1989
19.	E.S. Venkataramiah	June 19, 1989	— Dec. 17, 1989
20.	Sabyasachi Mukherjee	Dec. 18, 1989	— Sept. 25, 1990
21.	Ranganath Mishra	Sept. 26, 1990	— Nov. 24, 1991
22.	Kamal Narain Singh	Nov. 25, 1991	— Dec. 12, 1991
23.	M.H. Kania	Dec. 13, 1991	— Nov. 17, 1992
24.	Lalit Mohan Sharma	Nov. 18, 1992	— Feb. 11, 1993
25.	M.N. Venkatachaliah	Feb. 12, 1993	— Oct. 24, 1994
26.	Aziz Mushabber Ahmadi	Oct. 25, 1994	— March 24, 1997
27.	Jagdish Sharan Verma	March 25, 1997	— Jan. 17, 1998
28.	M.M. Punchhi	Jan. 18, 1998	— October 9, 1998
29.	A.S. Anand	Oct. 10, 1998	— Oct. 31, 2001
30.	S.P. Bharucha	Nov. 1, 2001	— May 5, 2002
31.	B.N. Kirpal	May 6, 2002	— Nov. 7, 2002
32.	G.B. Pattanaik	Nov. 8, 2002	— Dec. 18, 2002
33.	V.N. Khare	Dec. 19, 2002	— May 1, 2004
34.	S. Rajendra Babu	May 2, 2004	— May 31, 2004
35.	R.C. Lahoti	June 1, 2004	— Oct. 31, 2005
36.	Yogesh Kumar Sabharwal	Nov. 1, 2005	— Jan. 13, 2007
37.	K.G. Balakrishnan	Jan. 14, 2007	— May 11, 2010
38.	S.H. Kapadia	May 12, 2010	— Sept. 28, 2012
39.	Altamas Kabir	Sept. 29, 2012	— July 18, 2013
40.	P. Sadashivam	July 19, 2013	— April 26, 2014
41.	R.M. Lodha	April 27, 2014	— Sept. 27, 2014
42.	H.L. Dattu	Sept. 28, 2014	— Dec. 2, 2015

S.No.	Name	Tenure	
43.	T.S. Thakur	Dec. 3, 2015	— Jan. 3, 2017
44.	J.S. Khehar	Jan. 4, 2017	— August 27, 2017
45.	Dipak Mishra	August 28, 2017	— Oct. 2, 2018
46.	Ranjan Gogoi	Oct. 3, 2018	— Nov. 17, 2019
47.	Sharad Arvind Bobde	Nov. 18, 2019	—

Chief Election Commissioners of India

S.No.	Name	Tenure	
1.	Sukumar Sen	21 March, 1950	— 19 Dec., 1958
2.	K.V.K. Sundaram	20 Dec., 1958	— 30 Sept., 1967
3.	S.P. Sen Verma	1 Oct., 1967	— 30 Sept., 1972
4.	Dr. Nagendra Singh	1 Oct., 1972	— 6 Feb., 1973
5.	T. Swaminathan	7 Feb., 1973	— 17 June, 1977
6.	S.L. Shakhdar	18 June, 1977	— 17 June, 1982
7.	R.K. Trivedi	18 June, 1982	— 31 Dec., 1985
8.	R.V.S. Peri Sastri	1 Jan., 1986	— 25 Nov., 1990
9.	Smt. V.S. Rama Devi	26 Nov., 1990	— 11 Dec., 1990
10.	T.N. Sheshan	12 Dec., 1990	— 11 Dec., 1996
11.	M.S. Gill	12 Dec., 1996	— 13 June, 2001
12.	J.M. Lyngdoh	14 June 2001	— 7 Feb., 2004
13.	T.S. Krishnamurthy	8 Feb., 2004	— 15 May, 2005
14.	B.B. Tandan	16 May, 2005	— 29 June, 2006
15.	N. Gopaldaswami	30 June, 2006	— 20 April, 2009
16.	Navin Chawla	21 April, 2009	— 29 July, 2010
17.	S.Y. Quraishi	30 July, 2010	— 10 June, 2012
18.	V.S. Sampath	11 June, 2012	— 15 Jan., 2015
19.	H.S. Brahma	16 Jan., 2015	— 18 April, 2015
20.	Nasim Zaidi	19 April, 2015	— 5 July, 2017
21.	Achal Kumar Joti	6 July, 2017	— 22 Jan., 2018
22.	Om Prakash Rawat	23 Jan., 2018	— 1 Dec., 2018
23.	Sunil Arora	2 Dec., 2018	—





OUR INDIA

INDIA: AT A GLANCE

Capital : New Delhi

Area : 32,87,263 sq. km

Areawise place in the world : 7th

Location : India extends between latitudes 8°4'N and 37°6' N. It is a country of the east with its landmass lying between longitudes 68°7' E and 97° 25' E.

Stretch : 3,214 Kilometres from north to south 2,933 Kilometres from east to west

Land Frontier : 15,200 km

Coastline : 7516.5 km

Neighbouring Countries : India shares its political borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan on the west and Bangladesh and Myanmar on the east. The northern boundary is made up of the Sinkiang province of China, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. India is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

Physical Feature : The mainland consists of four well-defined

regions: (i) The great mountain zone; (ii) The Indo-Gangetic plain; (iii) The desert region and (iv) The Southern Peninsula

Rivers : (a) The main rivers of the Himalayan group are the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.

(b) The major Deccan rivers are the Godavari, the Krishna, the Cauvery, the Pennar, the Mahanadi, the Damodar, the Sharavati, the Netravati, the Bharatpuzha, the Periyar, the Pamba, the Narmada and the Tapti.

Climate : There are four seasons which are recognised by the — Indian Meteorological department. They are — Cold weather, hot weather, rainy season and the season of the retreating south-west monsoon.

Fauna : Approximately 89,451 species

National Parks : 101 (2019)

Wildlife Sanctuaries : 553 (2019)

Official Language : Hindi

Recognised Languages : 22

Populationwise place in the world : 2nd

India: States & Union Territories

States	Capital	Area in (Sq. Km.)	Language
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	1,60,229	Telugu
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	83,743	Nyishi, Dafla, Miji, Wancho etc.
Assam	Dispur	78,438	Assamese
Bihar	Patna	94,163	Hindi, Maithili
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	136,034	Hindi
Goa	Panji	3,702	Marathi and Konkani
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	1,96,024	Gujarati
Haryana	Chandigarh	44,212	Hindi
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	55,673	Hindi and Pahari
Jharkhand	Ranchi	79,714	Hindi, Santhali
Karnataka	Bengaluru	1,91,791	Kannada
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	38,863	Malayalam
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	308,000	Hindi
Maharashtra	Mumbai	307,713	Marathi
Manipur	Imphal	22,327	Manipuri
Meghalaya	Shillong	22,429	Khasi, Garo and English
Mizoram	Aizawl	21,081	Mizo and English
Nagaland	Kohima	16,579	Sema, English
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	155,707	Odiya
Punjab	Chandigarh	50,362	Punjabi
Rajasthan	Jaipur	3,42,239	Hindi and Rajasthani
Sikkim	Gangtok	7,096	Bhutia, Nepali, Lepcha and Limbu
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	1,30,058	Tamil
Telangana	Hyderabad	1,14,840	Telugu
Tripura	Agartala	10,491	Bengali, Kakborak, Manipuri
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	2,40,928	Hindi and Urdu
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	53,484	Hindi
West Bengal	Kolkata	88,752	Bengali
Union Territories	Capital	Area in (Sq. Km.)	Language
Andaman & Nicobar Island	Port Blair	8,249	Bengali, Hindi, Nicobarese, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	114	Hindi, Punjabi
Dadara & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Daman	603	Gujarati and Hindi
Delhi	Delhi	1483	Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu
Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	32	Malayalam
Puducherry	Puducherry	492	Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, English and French
Jammu & Kashmir*	Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)	2,22,236	Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri
Ladakh	Leh	—	Ladakhi

* Data of Ladakh is included in it.

The 2011 Census: The population of India has crossed 1.21 billion mark. Of the six persons in the world one is an Indian.

2011 Census Highlights

Population of India	: Total 1,21,08,54,977 (1.21 billion)
Male	: 62,32,70,258
Females	: 58,75,84,719
Indian population is 17.8% of total world population.	
Decadal Growth (2001-2011)	: 17.7 per cent
Highest Decadal Growth (Statewise)	: Meghalaya (27.82 per cent)
Lowest Decadal Growth (Statewise)	: Nagaland (−0.6 per cent)
Most populous State	: Uttar Pradesh (16.49 per cent of Population)
National Density of population	: 382 persons per sq. km.
Most densely populated State	: Bihar : 1106 per sq. km
Sex Ratio	: 943 females per 1000 males
Total Literacy Rate	: 73% (Males – 80.9%) (Females – 64.6%)
Highest Literacy (Statewise)	: Kerala (94%)
Lowest Literacy (Statewise)	: Bihar (61.8%)

■ IMPORTANT FACTS

States

- Highest density — Bihar of population
- Lowest density — Arunachal Pradesh of Population
- Highest Literacy — Kerala
- Lowest Literacy — Bihar
- First to achieve — Haryana 100% electrification

Union Territories

- First to achieve — Lakshadweep 100% Literacy

- Highest density — Delhi of population

■ NATIONAL SYMBOLS

National Emblem: State emblem of India is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. It was adopted by the Government of India on January 26, 1950. In the adapted



form, only three lions are visible, the fourth being hidden from the view. The wheel (Dharma Chakra) appears in

relief in the centre of the abacus with a bull on the right and a horse on the left. The bell-shaped lotus has been omitted. The words “Satyameva Jayate” meaning “Truth alone triumphs” are inscribed below the Emblem in Devanagari script.

National Flag: The

National Flag of India is a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band there is a wheel in navy blue colour. It has 24 spokes. The ratio of the length and the breadth of the flag is 3 : 2. Its design was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.



National Anthem: Rabindranath Tagore’s song ‘Jana-gana-mana’ was adopted by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950.

*Jana-gan-mana-adhinayaka jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata
Punjab-Sindh-Gujarat-Maratha-
Dravida-Utkala-Banga
Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga
Uchhala-jaladhi-taranga.
Tava subha name jage,
Tava subha asisa mange,
Gahe tava jaya gatha,
Jana-gana-mangala-dayak, jaya he
Bharata bhagya vidhata,
Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he,
Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he.*

National Song: Bankim Chandra Chatterji’s ‘Vande Mataram’ which was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom, has been

adopted as National Song. It has an equal status with the National Anthem.

Vande Mataram

*Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja-shitalam,
Shasya shyamalam, Mataram
Shubhrajyotsna,pulkita yaminim,
Phulla kusumita drumadalashobhinim,
Subhasinim sumadhura—bhashinim,
Sukhadam, Varadam, Mataram.*

National Bird and Animal of India: Peacock and Tiger.

National Aquatic Animal: Dolphin

National Flower: Lotus.

National Calendar: It was adopted on March 22, 1957. It has 365 days in the year and the first month of the year is Chaitra.

■ **MONTHS OF THE NATIONAL CALENDAR**

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| (1) Chaitra | (7) Ashvina |
| (2) Vaishakha | (8) Kartika |
| (3) Jaishtha | (9) Marga-Shirsha |
| (4) Ashadha | (10) Pausha |
| (5) Shravan | (11) Magha |
| (6) Bhadra | (12) Phalgun. |

■ **FIRST IN INDIA**

- ◆ **Nobel Prize for Literature (1913):** Rabindra Nath Tagore
- ◆ **Nobel Prize for Physics (1930):** C.V. Raman
- ◆ **Nobel Prize for Peace (1979):** Mother Teresa
- ◆ **Nobel Prize for Economics (1998):** Amartya Sen
- ◆ **Special Oscar award winner (1992):** Satyajit Ray
- ◆ **Governor-General of free India (Last also):** C. Rajagopalachari

- ◆ **Woman Governor of the State:** Smt. Sarojini Naidu
- ◆ **Indian Chief of the Army Staff:** General K.M. Cariappa
- ◆ **Woman Chief Minister of a State:** Smt. Sucheta Kripalani
- ◆ **Woman President of United Nations General Assembly (1954):** Smt. Vijaylakshmi Pandit
- ◆ **President of International Court of Justice:** Dr. Nagendra Singh
- ◆ **Woman to swim across the English Channel:** Ms. Aarti Gupta
- ◆ **Miss Universe:** Miss Sushmita Sen
- ◆ **Miss World:** Reita Faria
- ◆ **Field Marshal:** S.H.F.J. Manekshaw
- ◆ **Indian to conquer Mt. Everest:** Sherpa Tenzing, May 29, 1953
- ◆ **Indian male cosmonaut (1984):** Rakesh Sharma
- ◆ **Indian female cosmonaut:** Kalpana Chawla (19 Nov., 1997)
- ◆ **Woman to climb Mt. Everest:** Miss Bachendri Pal, May 23, 1984
- ◆ **Indian to address the UN General Assembly in Hindi:** Atal Behari Vajpayee
- ◆ **Newspaper:** Bengal Gazette, Jan 27, 1780
- ◆ **Postage Stamp issued:** In 1852
- ◆ **Railways run:** April 16, 1853; Bombay-Thana
- ◆ **Electric Train run:** 1925: Bombay-Kurla
- ◆ **Atomic Power Station:** Tarapore (Maharashtra)
- ◆ **Satellite:** Aryabhata (1975)
- ◆ **Rocket:** Rohini (1967)
- ◆ **Atomic Reactor:** Apsara (1956)
- ◆ **First film (movie):** Raja Harishchandra (1913)
- ◆ **First film (talkie):** Alam Ara (1931)
- ◆ **Metro Railway:** Kolkata Metro Railway
- ◆ **Test-tube baby, scientifically documented:** Born on August 6, 1986 at K.E.M. Hospital, Mumbai
- ◆ **TV Centre:** At Delhi
- ◆ **Indian to get an Oscar:** Bhanu Athaiya
- ◆ **Woman pilot in IAF:** Ms Harita Kaur Deol
- ◆ **Cellular Phone:** Kolkata, August 1, 1995
- ◆ **Women president of Indian National Congress:** Smt. Annie Besant
- ◆ **President of Indian National Congress:** W.C. Banerjee (1885)
- ◆ **Indian who passed in I.C.S. Examination:** Satendra Nath Tagore
- ◆ **Woman chief justice of High Court:** Lila Saith (Himachal Pradesh)
- ◆ **Woman Foreign Secretary:** Chokila Iyyar

■ FIRST IMPORTANT OFFICIALS OF INDIA

- ◆ **The Governor-General of free India:** Lord Mountbatten
- ◆ **The first and last Indian Governor-General of free India:** Dr. C. Rajagopalachari
- ◆ **President:** Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- ◆ **President (Female):** Pratibha Patil
- ◆ **Vice-President:** Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
- ◆ **Prime Minister:** Jawahar Lal Nehru

- ◆ **Prime Minister (Female):** Indira Gandhi
- ◆ **Deputy Prime Minister:** Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- ◆ **Chief Justice:** Harilal J. Kania
- ◆ **First Female Judge in Supreme Court:** Smt. Meera Sahib Fatima Bibi
- ◆ **Speaker, Lok Sabha:** Ganesh Vasudeo Mawlankar
- ◆ **Woman Speaker of Lok Sabha:** Meira Kumar
- ◆ **Chief Election Commissioner:** Sukumar Sen
- ◆ **Commander-in-Chief:** General Sir Roy Bucher
- ◆ **Chief of Army Staff:** General Maharaj Rajendra Singhji
- ◆ **Chief of Air Staff:** Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst
- ◆ **Chief of Naval Staff:** Vice Admiral Ramdas Katari
- ◆ **Female Minister:** Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur (Health Minister)
- ◆ **Female Governor:** Sarojini Naidu (U.P.)
- ◆ **Female Chief Minister:** Sucheta Kripalani (U.P. 1963)
- ◆ **Finance Commissioner:** K.C. Niyogi
- ◆ **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha (Recognised):** Y.V. Chavan (Congress)
- ◆ **Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha (Recognised):** Kamalapati Tripathi (Congress)
- ◆ **First female Chief Justice in High Court:** Leela Seth (Himachal Pradesh)

■ HIGHEST, BIGGEST, LARGEST & LONGEST IN INDIA

- ◆ **Award for Gallantry, Highest:** Param Vir Chakra
- ◆ **Award, highest civilian:** Bharat Ratna
- ◆ **Bank with largest number of branches:** State Bank of India (22,106 branches till March 2019)
- ◆ **River bridge, Longest:** Bhupen Hazarika Setu (across Lohit River : Assam (9.15 km.))
- ◆ **Cantilever Span Bridge, Largest:** Howrah Bridge (Kolkata)
- ◆ **Cattle Fair, Largest:** Sonapur Fair (Bihar)
- ◆ **City, Most Populous:** Mumbai
- ◆ **Corridor, Longest:** Ramanathaswamy Corridor, Tamil Nadu (1,220 mt.)
- ◆ **Desert, Largest:** Thar (Rajasthan)
- ◆ **Dam, Longest:** Hirakud Dam (Odisha)
- ◆ **Dam, Highest:** Tehri Dam on Bhagirathi river in Uttarakhand (855 ft.)
- ◆ **Delta, Largest:** Sunderban (12,872 Sq. km.)
- ◆ **Dome, Largest:** Gol Gumbaz (Bijapur)
- ◆ **Gateway, Highest:** Buland Darwaja at Fatehpur Sikri (54 m.)
- ◆ **Lake, Largest (Fresh Water):** Wular Lake (Kashmir)
- ◆ **Literacy, Highest:** Kerala
- ◆ **Museum, Largest:** Indian Museum (Kolkata)
- ◆ **Mosque, Biggest:** Jama Masjid (Delhi)
- ◆ **Peak, Highest:** K-2 (8,611 mt.)
- ◆ **Railway Platform, Longest:** Gorakhpur, NE Railway (1355.4 Mtr.)

- ◆ **Railway Bridge, Largest (on River):** Nehru Setu, Bihar (river Sone)
- ◆ **River, Longest:** The Ganga river (2,525 km.)
- ◆ **Rainfall, Highest (annual mean):** Mowsynram near Cherrapunji (1,080 mm) (Meghalaya)
- ◆ **Road, Longest:** Grand Trunk Road
- ◆ **Rock-cut Temple, Largest:** Kailash Temples, Ellora (Maharashtra)
- ◆ **State, maximum per cent of forest cover:** Mizoram (cover 85.41% area)
- ◆ **State, Largest (area):** Rajasthan (3,42,239 sq. km.)
- ◆ **State, Most Populous:** Uttar Pradesh (19,95,81,477)
- ◆ **State with Maximum density of population:** Bihar (1106 persons per sq. km.)
- ◆ **Tunnel, Longest (Road):** Chenani-Nashri Tunnel (J & K—9.28 km.)
- ◆ **Tunnel, Longest (Railway):** Between Banihal and Qazigund stations in J&K (11.21 km Long)
- ◆ **Tower, Highest:** Qutub Minar (Delhi, 72.5 mt.)
- ◆ **Waterfall, Highest:** Gersoppa Waterfall, Mysuru (290 m.)
- ◆ **Zoo, Largest:** Zoological Gardens, Kolkata
- ◆ **Man-made Lake, Largest:** Govind Sagar (Bhakra)

■ PRINCIPAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN INDIA

- Cotton Textile Industry** : Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, U.P., W.Bengal, M.P., Karnataka, Kerala, Delhi (Maximum number of mills in Maharashtra).
- Jute Industry** : West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Andhra.
- Sugar Industry** : U.P., Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu.
- Silk Industry** : Karnataka, Murshidabad (W.Bengal), Srinagar, Asom, Bihar.
- Woollen Industry** : Amritsar, Ludhiana, Dhariwal, Kanpur, Panipat.
- Paper Industry** : Titagarh, Mumbai, Saharanpur, Jagadhri, Dalmia Nagar, Punalur (Kerala).
- Chemical Industry** : Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Kanpur, Amritsar, Chennai, Bangalore
- Antibiotic Factory** : Pimpri near Pune (Maharashtra), Rishikesh (Uttarakhand).
- Glass Industry** : Ferozabad & Bahjoi (U.P.), Mumbai, W.Bengal, Amritsar (Punjab).
- Aluminium Industry** : Kerala, W.Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, M.P.
- Ship-building Industry** : Visakhapatnam, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi
- Cement Industry** : Porbander, Katni (M.P.), Lakheri (Rajasthan), Vijayawada, Dadri (Haryana), Allahabad.

- Locomotive Industry** : Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (W.Bengal) and Diesel Locomotive Works Varanasi (U.P.), Diesel Components Works Patiala (Punjab).
- Heavy Electrical** : Bhopal (M.P.), Hardwar (Uttarakhand), Hyderabad (A.P.), Tiruverumbur (Tamil Nadu).
- Hindustan Machine** : Jalahalli (Bangaluru), Pinjore (Chandigarh), Kalamassery (Kerala), Kukatpalli (Hyderabad), Zainkot, Srinagar (J&K).
- Hindustan Teleprinters** : Bangaluru and Chennai.
- Coach Factory** : Integral Coach Factory, Perambur (TN), Railway Coach Factory in Kapurthala (Punjab).
- Lignite Factory** : Neyvelli (Tamil Nadu).
- Telephone Industry** : Bangaluru (Karnataka).
- Petroleum Industry** : The present refining capacity in the country as on 1st June 2011 was 193.386 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA). Out of 21 refineries operating in the country, 17 are in public sector, 3 are in private sector and 1 is in JV (Joint venture) of Public Sector.
- Iron and Steel Industry** : (i) Rourkela Steel Plant: Odisha-German collaboration; (ii) Bhilai Steel Plant: Chattisgarh — Russian collaboration; (iii) Durgapur Steel Plant: W.Bengal --- British collaboration; (iv) Bokaro Steel Plant: Jharkhand — Russian collaboration; (v) Indian Iron & Steel Co. — Burnpur & Kulti — Nationalised in July 1975; and (vi) Tata Iron and Steel Works: Jamshedpur — In the Private Sector.

■ INDIAN BANKS

Reserve Bank of India: It was established in 1935 and nationalised in 1949. It is the Central Bank of the country and issues all currency notes except one rupee note. It acts as a banker to the Government and exercises control over other commercial banks in the country. Headquarters of Reserve Bank of India is in Mumbai.

The State Bank of India: Largest commercial bank, was nationalised in 1955. Now State Bank of India has more than 22,106 branches in India and world.

Nationalisation of Banks: The Government of India on July 19, 1969, took over 14 biggest commercial banks incorporated in the country. On April 15, 1980, six more banks were

nationalised. In March 1994, the Parliament passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1994 which inter alia provided for establishment of private sector banks.

■ INSURANCE

Life Insurance Corporation of India: Since September 1, 1956, when the L.I.C. of India was established, life insurance business in India is transacted by the Corporation and, in a restricted sphere by the Posts and Telegraphs Department of the Government of India and by some State Governments.

General Insurance Corporation of India: It was established in November, 1972 and with effect from January, 1974 the erstwhile 107 Indian and Foreign insurers were grouped by this corporation into four operation companies, namely National Insurance, New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance.

■ INTERNET COMES TO INDIA

Internet, the U.S. dominated world's largest network of computer networks is available in its full blown version in

the country from August 15, 1995. The service has been ushered in India by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) which has lined up a countrywide network spanning the locations of the four metros through high speed data links. Internet Services are opened for private participations since November 1998. Till 2019 there were more than 627 million Internet users in India.

■ ACADEMIES

Sangeet Natak Academy: Established in 1953, aims at the preservation of Indian culture and promoting and developing drama.

Lalit Kala Academy: Established in 1954, its main function is to encourage and promote study and research in various fields of art.

Sahitya Academy: Established in 1954. Prizes are given by the academy on the most outstanding books, published every year in all the 24 languages recognised by Constitution of India, and in English.

All the three academies are situated in New Delhi.

■ DANCE

Classical Dance

Dance	State	Famous Artists
Bharat Natyam	Tamil Nadu	Yamini Krishnamurthy, Rukmini Devi, Arundale, Swapna Sundari, Sonal Mansingh, Vajjanti Mala, Mrinalini Sarabhai, Chandralekha, Indrani, Ram Gopal, Bal Saraswati
Kathakali	Kerala	Gopinath, K.K. Nayar, Kunju-Kurup, T.K. Chandu
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh	Sapna Sundari, Raja Reddy, Shobha Nayar, Radha Reddy, Vedantam Satyanarayan, Vimpanti Chinna Satyam.

Dance	State	Famous Artists
Kathak	North India	Birju Maharaj, Gopi Krishna, Shambhu Maharaj, Sitara Devi, Vishnu Sharma, Durga Lal, Shobhana Narayan
Odissi	Odisha	Kelucharan Mahapatra, Indrani Rehman, Madhavi Mudgal, Pratima Bedi, Samyukta Panigrahi, Sonal Mansingh, Debudas

Famous Folk-Dance

State	Folk Dance
Andhra Pradesh	Dandari, Banjara
Assam	Bihu, Keli Gopal, Sataria
Bihar	Chhau, Magahi, Durga dance
W. Bengal	Kirtan, Kalatri, Asweabadh, Brita, Kalidance
Chhattisgarh	Saila, Karama, Bhagoria
Gujarat	Garba, Rasalila, Tippani, Dandia,
Haryana	Damyal, Lahoor
Himachal Pradesh	Dussehra dance, Hikar, Notio
Jammu & Kashmir	Dumhal
Jharkhand	Jhau, Ghumakudia, Jadur, Sarhul, Soharai, Karama, Vaima, Loojhari, Jat-Jatin, Vidayat
Karnataka	Yakshagan, Dolu Kunitha
Kerala	Mohini Attam, Padayuni

State	Folk Dance
Madhya Pradesh	Lota Nritya, Jawara
Maharashtra	Tamasha, Dahi Handi, Gof, Deepak Dindi
Manipur	Dhol Cholam
Meghalaya	Nongakarem
Nagaland	Bamboo dance
Odisha	Chhau, Maya Shabari, Dalachai
Punjab	Gidda, Bhangra, Panihari
Rajasthan	Hoomar, Kathaputali, Tera Tali
Tamil Nadu	Terukalathu, Kalamatam, Kargam, Pulivesham
Tripura	Hazagiri
Uttar Pradesh	Rasalila, Nautanki, Thali, Dhurang, Jhumela, Huraka, Bol.
Uttarakhand	Kajari, Karan
Goa	Dhode Modini

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND ARTISTS

Musical Instrument	Artists
Flute	Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Panna Lal Ghosh, T.R. Mahalingam, N. Ramani, Vijaya Raghava Rao
Tabla	Allah Rakha, Gudi Maharaj, Latif Khan, Zakir Hussain
Violin	Lalgudi Jayaraman, L. Subramaniam, M.S. Gopal Krishnan, S. Subrahmaniam, V.G. Jog, N. Rajan

Musical Instrument	Artists
Shehnai	Bismilla Khan, Imrat Khan'
Sarod	Ali Akbar Khan, Amjad Ali Khan, Alauddin Khan, Saren Rani, Brij Narayan
Sitar	Pandit Ravishankar, Vilayat Khan
Santur	Shiv Kumar Sharma
Rudraveena	Jai Mohiuddin Dagar

Musical Instrument	Artists
Pakhawaj	Govind Rao, Anokhe Lal, Kanthi Maharaj
Mridanga	Palghat R. Raghu, U.S. Burman
Harmonium	Purushottam Walawakar, M. Dhaulpuri

Musical Instrument	Artists
Guitar	Pt. Vishnu Mohan Bhatt, Mohan Bhatt, Brij Bhushan Kalra
Ghatam	T.H. Vinayakaram
Janjira	V. Nagarajan
Symphony	Jubin Mehta

POSTS

The Postal system in India is, perhaps, as ancient as her temples. The basis of authority of existing postal system in India is Act 6 of 1858. The Indian postal network, one of the largest in the world, is the second biggest state enterprise of the country, the first being the Railways. Till 2018 there were 1,54,965 post offices in the country. The Department also discharges certain agency functions like the work of Post Office Savings Bank, National Savings Certificates and Postal Life Insurance. From August 15, 1972, the Posts & Telegraphs Department started 'PIN' (*Postal Index Number*) coding system for delivery of mail purpose. *Speed Post* was introduced from August 1, 1986. With the introduction of *Speed Post Money Order Service* in 1988, India has become the first country in the world to provide this service. *Satellite Money Order Service* was introduced from December 16, 1994. *Hybrid Mail* was launched on January 14, 1995.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

All India Radio (A.I.R.) started functioning from June 3, 1936. In Oct, 1957, Vividh Bharti Programme was

introduced. *Today A.I.R. is one of the major broadcasting organisations in the world with 469 radio stations and 662 transmitters.* National Channel was commissioned on May 18, 1988. The FM Channel from Delhi broadcasts for 24 hours.

Radio Paging was launched by AIR on January 14, 1995. This facility enables subscribers to send messages to persons on move. AIR is the first in Asia to use this technology.

Doordarshan: The television network in the country has been separated from All India Radio and brought under a Director General from April 1, 1976. The new set-up is known as **Doordarshan**. The first TV station was set up in Delhi on September 15, 1959. Five new channels of Doordarshan were introduced on August 15, 1993. International Channel for Doordarshan was started on March 14, 1995. DD-CNN news channel opened on June 30, 1995. Doordarshan started Sports Channel on 18 March, 1999.

Now more than 92% of the population of the country can receive Doordarshan programmes through a network of more than 1,416 terrestrial transmitters.

FAMOUS PLACES AND TOWNS IN INDIA

Ajanta Caves: Rock cut shrines and monasteries at Ajanta in Maharashtra. These Buddhist cave temples, constructed between 100 BC and 7th century AD contain astonishing wall paintings.

Elephanta Caves: Situated on an island 15 miles away from Mumbai; famous for a number of large and remarkable well-executed images of Brahmanical gods.

Ellora: These are 34 cave-temples situated near Aurangabad in Maharashtra. Famous for its rock-cut Kailash Temple.

Gomateswara (Karnataka): The statue (57 feet high) of Jain sage Gomateswara; it is 2000 years old and made out of a single rock.

Jagannath Temple: Famous Hindu Temple situated at Puri in Odisha; annual Rath Yatra Festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm.

Khajuraho: Situated in Bundelkhand (M.P.). It is famous for Mahadeva Temple, built in 10-11th century.

Konark Temple: Famous for the Sun Temple built in the 13th century, 85 kilometers from Puri in Odisha.

Nalanda: A famous university of Buddhist learning in Bihar (near Patna) founded in the 5th Century but now in ruins.

Sanchi (Bhopal, M.P.): Known for Buddhist stupas.

Taj Mahal (Agra, U.P.): A white marble mausoleum built by Shahjahan, the

Mughal Emperor, in 1653, in memory of his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal.

Sarnath: A place near Varanasi where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon.

Karwar: In Karnataka, INS Sea Bird, the biggest and most sophisticated naval base in South Asia.

Shakti Sthal: The cremation spot in New Delhi of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

National Theatre, Mumbai: The 1040-seat Tata Theatre is India's first national theatre which is as beautiful as any of its size in the world.

National Science Centre: Built at a cost of Rs. 15 crores and is situated at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

Pokhran: The first Indian nuclear test was carried out in the Pokhran (May 18, 1974) in Rajasthan desert. Again on May 11 & 13, 1998 India conducted 5 tests to attain status of nuclear power state.

Koradi: It is near Nagpur. India's biggest super thermal power station is situated here.

Bombay High: It is a point 120 km. north-west of Mumbai where vast oil deposits have been found.

Dilwara Temple: Near Mount Abu (Rajasthan) where Hindu and Jain Temples built in 11-13 century exist.

Buland Darwaja: A high gate in Fatehpur Sikri near Agra, built by Akbar.

Anand Bhawan (Prayagraj): Ancestral home of the Nehrus.

Gaya (Bihar): Famous Pilgrimage Centre.

Darjeeling (West Bengal): Beautiful hill station and tea gardens.

Teen Murti (New Delhi): Nehru Museum.

Sambhar: A salt lake in Rajasthan.

Neyvelli (Tamil Nadu): Largest Power Station.

Victoria Memorial (Kolkata): An Art Gallery building.

Rajghat (Delhi): Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi.

Gateway of India: A memorial gate at Mumbai, built in 1911.

Sabarmati (Ahmedabad): Ashram of Gandhiji.

Shantivana (Delhi): Pt. Nehru's Samadhi near Rajghat.

Vijayghat (Delhi): Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri's Samadhi.

Brindaban Gardens: Karnataka.

Hanging Garden: Mumbai.

Eden Garden (Kolkata): Famous Cricket Stadium.

Rishikesh (Uttarakhand): Famous Hindu place of pilgrimage; Antibiotic Factory.

Porbunder (Gujarat): Birth place of Mahatma Gandhi.

Sevagram: Famous Ashram of Gandhiji at Wardha.

Shantiniketan: Varsity near Kolkata founded by Rabindranath Tagore.

Rameshwaram: Sacred place of Hindus.

Tower of Victory (Raj.): A famous monument of marble in Chittor build by Rana Kumbha.

Golden Temple (Amritsar): Famous Sikh Gurdwara.

Ankleshwar (Gujarat): Famous for Petroleum.

Nishat Bagh (Kashmir): Famous Garden.

Birla Planetarium, Kolkata: India's first and world's second biggest planetarium.

Triveni (U.P.): Confluence of the Ganges, Jamuna and mythological Saraswati; a place of pilgrimage for the Hindus.

Amarnath: A place of pilgrimage for the Hindus, situated at a height of about 13,000 ft. in Kashmir.

Badrinath: A place of pilgrimage for the Hindus, near the Gangotry Glacier in the Himalayas.

Jalianwala Bagh: A garden in Amritsar; scene of massacre of innocent Indians by the British on April 13, 1919.

India Gate: A memorial in New Delhi.

National Rail Museum: Established in New Delhi (near Moti Bagh), the museum provides a glimpse into 155 years of the history of railways in India.

National Museum of Natural History: First of its kind in India, has been established in New Delhi on June 5, 1978.

Swatantrata Sangram Sangra-halya and Swatantrata Senani Smarak: At Red Fort, Delhi. Inaugurated on Oct 2, 1995 by Prime Minister.

■ IMPORTANT HILL STATIONS IN INDIA

Station	State
Almora	Uttarakhand
Gulmarg	Kashmir
Cherrapunji	Meghalaya
Kasauli	Himachal Pradesh
Coonoor	Tamil Nadu

Station	State
Mahabaleshwar	Maharashtra
Dalhousie	Himachal Pradesh
Mount Abu	Rajasthan
Darjeeling	West Bengal
Mussoorie	Uttarakhand
Nainital	Uttarakhand

Station	State
Ranikhet	Uttarakhand
Ootacamund	Tamil Nadu
Shillong	Meghalaya
Panchmarhi	Madhya Pradesh
Shimla	Himachal Pradesh

■ FAMOUS NEWSPAPERS IN INDIA

English Newspapers: Amrit Bazar Patrika; The Telegraph; The Statesman; The Times of India; The Hindustan Times; The Tribune; The National Herald; The Financial Express; The Indian Express; The Economic Times; The Hindu; The Patriot; The Pioneer, The Deccan Herald, The Asian Age.

Hindi Newspapers: Vishvmitra; Nai Duniya; Navbharat Times; Hindustan; Aaj; Punjab Kesari; Janasatta; Dainik Jagran; Tribune; Rajasthan Patrika; Amar Ujala; Rashtriya Sahara, Dainik Bhaskar.

Other Newspapers & their Languages:

Anand Bazar Patrika & Jugantar (Bengali); Nutan Assamiya (Assamese); Matribhoomi (Odiya); Pratap (Urdu); Gujrati Samachar (Gujarati); Eenadu (Telugu); Kannada Prabha (Kannada); Navkal (Marathi); Dinamani (Tamil); Mathrubhoomi (Malayalam); Loksatta (Marathi); Malayala Manorama (Malayalam).

Employment News: It is a weekly newspaper published by the Government of India in English, Hindi and Urdu. It carries complete information on employment opportunities. It is published from Delhi.

■ IMPORTANT PLACES : IN A NUTSHELL

Place	City/State
Ajanta	Maharashtra
Mausoleum of Akbar	Agra
Amarnath Cave	Kashmir
Anand Bhawan	Prayagraj
Bhakra Dam	Punjab
Jagannath Temple	Puri (Odisha)
Jama Masjid	Delhi
Black Pagoda	Konark (Odisha)
Vrindavan Garden	Karnataka
Buland Darwaja	Fatehpur Sikri
Charminar	Hyderabad
Chilka Lake	Near Bhubaneswar
Dal Lake	Srinagar
Dilwara Temple	Mount Abu
Elephanta Caves	Mumbai
Ellora Caves	Aurangabad

Place	City/State
Gateway of India	Mumbai
Golden Temple	Amritsar
Gol Gumbaz	Bijapur
Hanging Garden	Mumbai
Hawa Mahal	Jaipur
Howrah Bridge	Kolkata
Kanyakumari Temple	Tamil Nadu
Sun Temple	Konark
Red Tiger Garden	Bengaluru
Qutub Minar	Delhi
Rajghat	Delhi
Shalimar Bagh	Srinagar
Taj Mahal	Agra
Victoria Memorial	Kolkata
Victoria Garden	Mumbai
Victory Tower	Chittorgarh

IMPORTANT PLACES AND RELATED PERSONALITIES

Place	Personality
Sabarmati	
Ashram	Mahatma Gandhi
Sadakat Ashram	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Pavanar Ashram	Acharya Vinoba Bhave
Jerusalem	Jesus Christ
Shanti Niketan	Rabindranath Tagore
Talawandi	Guru Nanak
Auroville	Mother Anandamai, Maharshi Arbindo Ghosh
Mecca/Madina	Prophet Mohammed Sahib
Waterloo	Napoleon Bonaparte
Kapilvastu, Bodh Gaya, Lumbini,	
Kushi Nagar	Gautama Buddha
Nirmal Hriday	Mother Teresa
Anand Van	Baba Amte
Jallianwala Bagh	General Dyer

Place	Personality
Champaran	Gandhiji
Macedonia/ Alexandria	Alexander, the Great
Belur	Swami RamKrishna Paramahansa
Corsica, St. Helena	Napolean
Bardoli	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Trafalgar	Nelson
Shantivan, Tri- murti Bhawan	Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru
Vijay Ghat	Lal Bahadur Shastri
Shaktisthal	Indira Gandhi
Samatasthal	Babu Jagjiwan Ram
Kisan Ghat	Chaudhary Charan Singh
Chittorgarh/ Haldighati	Maharana Pratap

IMPORTANT ORGANISATIONS AND FOUNDERS

Organisation	Year	Founder
Khalsa	1699	Guru Gobind Singh Ji
Brahmo Samaj	1829	Raja Ram Mohan Rai
Arya Samaj	1875	Swami Dayanand Saraswati
Satya Shodhak Samaj	—	Jayotiba Phoolé
Prarthana Samaj	1867	Atmarang Pandurang and M.Q. Ranadey
Ram Krishna Mission	1896	Swami Vivekanand
Home Rule League	1916	Balgangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant
Viswa Bharti, Shanti Niketan	1918	Gurudev Ravindra Nath Tagore
Sabarmati Ashram	1916	Mahatma Gandhi
Theosophical Society	1875	Madam H.P. Blavatsky and Col. H.S. Olcoch.
Khudai Khidmatgar	1837	Abdul Gaffar Khan
Forward Bloc	1939	Subhash Chandra Bose
Azad Hind Fauj	1942	Subhash Chandra Bose

FOREST

India possesses a variety of forests and natural vegetation which varies from region to region due to variation in climatic conditions, soil types and

relief features. The country can be divided into five major vegetation region which are: (i) The tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests; (ii) the tropical deciduous forests;

(iii) the dry thorn forests; (iv) the tidal forests; (v) the hill forests of Himalayan region.

Among the most valuable natural resources of India must be reckoned

her magnificent forest. The area under forests in India is about 7,12,249 sq. km, which accounts for about 21.67 per cent of the total geographical area of the country.

■ IRRIGATION

Sources of Irrigation	Irrigated area & its percentage	State
Canals	24%	Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu
Wells + Tubewells	62%	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu
Tanks	03%	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh
Others	11%	

■ FAMOUS INDIAN RIVERS

Name of River	Length (km)	Source	Joins into
Betwa	480	Vindhya chhal (M.P.)	Yamuna
Brahmaputra	2,900	Mansarovar Lake (Tibet)	Bay of Bengal
Banas	270	Aravalli Hills	Chambal
Cauvery	805	Brahmagiri Hills (Karnataka)	Bay of Bengal
Chambal	965	Janapawa Hills (M.P.)	Yamuna (Etawa)
Indrawati	513	Kalihandi (Odisha)	Godavari
Ganga	2,525	Gangotri	Bay of Bengal
Gandak	425	Nepal	Ganga (Patna)
Godavari	2465	Nasik (Maharashtra)	Bay of Bengal
Hoogly	—	Navadweep (W.B.)	Bay of Bengal
Kshipra	—	Indore	Chambal
Krishna	1,400	Western Ghat	Bay of Bengal
Kosi	730	Gosaithan peak	Ganga
Black Indus (Kali Sindhu)	416	Devas district	Yamuna
Luni	330	Ajmer (Aravalli hills)	Bay of Cutch
Mahanadi	828	Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	Bay of Bengal
Narmada	1,312	Amarkantak Mountain Range (M.P.)	Bay of Khambat
Ravi	720	Rohtang Dale	Chenab
Ramganga	602	Himalaya (Nainital)	Ganga (Near Kannauj)
Sabarmati	416	Udaipur	Rann of Cutch
Sindhu (Indus)	2,880	Near Mansarovar Lake	Arabian Sea
Sutlej	1,500	Near Mansarovar Lake	Chenab
Sone	780	Amarkantak Mountain Range (M.P.)	Ganga (Patna)
Tapti	724	Baitul (M.P.)	Bay of Khambat
Vyas	625	Rohtang dale	Sutlej
Yamuna	1,375	Yamunotri	Ganga

■ IMPORTANT INDIAN PEAKS (HEIGHT IN METRES)

K-2: 8611 (Pak-Occupied Kashmir);
Kanchenjunga: 8598; Nanga Parbat:
8126; Gasher Brum: 8068 (Pak-
Occupied Territory); Broad Peak: 8047
(Pak-Occupied Territory); Disteghil Sar:

7885 (Pak-Occupied Territory); Masher
Brum E: 7821; Nanda Devi: 7817;
Masher Brum W: 7806 (Pak Occupied
Territory); Rakaposhi: 7788 (Pak-
Occupied Territory); Kamet: 7756; Saser
Kangri: 7672; Chaukhamba (Badrinath
Peak): 7138; Trisul: 7138.

Some Major Irrigational and Multipurpose Projects

S.No.	Name of Project	Related State/U.T.	River
1.	Bargi Project	Madhya Pradesh	Bargi
2.	Beas	Joint Venture of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan	Beas
3.	Bhadra	Karnakata	Bhadra
4.	Bhakra Nangal	Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan	Sutluj
5.	Bhima I	Maharashtra	Pawana
6.	Bhima II	Maharashtra	Krishna
7.	Chambal	Joint Project of M.P. and Rajasthan	Chambal
8.	Damodar Valley Project	West Bengal and Bihar	Damodar
9.	Dulhasti Power Project	Jammu and Kashmir	Chenab
10.	Farakka	West Bengal	Hooghly
11.	Gandak	Bihar and U.P.	Gandak
12.	Ghataprabha	Karnataka	Ghataprabha
13.	Hasdeo Bango Project	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	Hasdeo
14.	Hirakud	Odisha	Mahanadi
15.	Jayakwadi	Maharashtra	Godavari
16.	Kakrapara	Gujarat	Tapti
17.	Kangsabati	West Bengal	Kangsabati and Kumari
18.	Karjan	Gujarat	Karjan
19.	Kosi	Bihar	Kosi
20.	Koyana	Maharashtra	Koyana
21.	Krishna Project	Maharashtra	Krishna
22.	Kukadi	Maharashtra	Kukadi
23.	Left Bank Ghagra Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Ghagra
24.	Madhya Ganga Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Ganga
25.	Mahanadi Delta Scheme	Odisha	(The irrigation scheme will utilise releases from Hirakund Reservoir)
26.	Mahi	Gujarat	Mahi
27.	Malaprabha	Karnataka	Malaprabha
28.	Mayurakshi	West Bengal	Mayurakshi
29.	Nagarjunasagar	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna

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S.No.	Name of Project	Related State	River
30.	Panam	Gujarat	Panam
31.	Pochampad	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari
32.	Parambikulam Aliyar	Tamil Nadu and Kerala	Perimbikulam
33.	Pong Dam	Punjab	Beas
34.	Ramganga	Uttarakhand	Ramganga
35.	Ranjit Sagar Dam (Thein Dam)	Punjab	Ravi
36.	Rihand	Uttar Pradesh	Rihand
37.	Sabarmati	Gujarat	Sabarmati
38.	Sharda Sahayak	U.P.	Ghagra
39.	Sone High Level Canal	Bihar	Sone
40.	Tawa	Madhya Pradesh	Tawa
41.	Tehri Dam	Uttarakhand	Bhagirathi
42.	Tungabhadra	Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka	Tungabhadra
43.	Ukai	Gujarat	Tapti
44.	Upper Krishna	Karnataka	Krishna
45.	Upper Penganga	Maharashtra	Penganga
46.	Uri Power Project	Jammu and Kashmir	Jhelum

■ AGRICULTURE

48.9% Population of India depends upon agriculture. 14.4% of national income coming from agriculture sector. Three types of crops are cultivated in India.

Crop	Month	Product
Rabi	October-April	Wheat, Barley, Gram, Mustard
Kharif	July-October	Rice, Jowar, Maize, Bajra, Cotton, Jute
Jayad	March-June	Melon, Cucumber

■ SOILS OF INDIA

Indian soil has been divided into four categories, viz., Alluvial soil, Black soil, Red soil and Laterite soil. The Indian soil when compared with soil of any other country, is comparatively dry and requires an adequate supply of water for the purpose of cultivation.

Major Indian Crops

Crops	Temp (°c)	Water (cm)	States where Produced
Wheat	15°-25°	60-90	Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana.
Rice	24°-26°	80-200	West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab
Maize	18°-21°	50-60	Maharashtra, Karnataka

Crops	Temp (°c)	Water (cm)	States where Produced
Jawar	20°-35°	40-60	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka
Soyabean	25°-27°	50-120	Madhya Pradesh
Cotton	20°-30°	80-150	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh
Tobacco	20°-25°	75-80	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar
Tea	24°-30°	100-200	Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh
Ground Nut	15°-25°	60-130	Gujarat, Maharashtra

India's wellknown Sanctuaries and National Parks

National Park/Sanctuary	State	Animals
Bandhwgarh National Park	Madhya Pradesh	Tiger, Panther, Cheetah, Sambhar
Bandipur National Park	Karnataka	Elephant, Leopard, Panther, Deer
Carbett National Park	Uttarakhand	Elephant, Panther, Nilgai
Dachigam Sanctuary	Jammu and Kashmir	Leopard, Black Bear, Kasmiri Stag
Dalma Sanctuary	Jharkhand	Elephant, Leopard, Pigs
Dudhawa National Park	Uttar Pradesh	Panther, Leopard, Sambhar, Chital
Kewaladev Bird Sanctuary	Bharatpur (Rajasthan)	Siberian Crane, Spoonhill, Stork, Black Deer
Gir National Park	Gujarat	Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Sambhar
Kaziranga National Park	Assam	One-horned Rhinoceros, Buffalo
Manas Sanctuary	Assam	Elephant, Panther, Bear, Sambhar
Betala Tiger Project	Palamu (Jharkhand)	Elephant, Tiger, Buffalo, Deer
Periyar Sanctuary	Kerala	Elephant, Panther, Leopard, Nilgai
Ranthambhor Tiger Project	Rajasthan	Tiger, Deer, Panther, Lion
Sundarban Tiger Reserve	W. Bengal	Leopard, Tiger, Pig, Deer
Shivpuri National Park	Madhya Pradesh	Panther, Chital, Sambhar
Sariska Sanctuary	Rajasthan	Panther, Leopard, Sambhar
Kanha-Kisla National Park	Madhya Pradesh	Tiger, Leopard, Sambhar, Deer
Panchmarhi National Park	Madhya Pradesh	Tiger, Leopard, Buffalo
Hazaribagh National Park	Jharkhand	Panther, Leopard, Deer

POPULAR BEACH RESORTS

1. Kovalam	Kerala	5. Konark	Odisha
2. Juhu	Mumbai	6. Puri	Odisha
3. Mamallapuram	Tamil Nadu	7. Waltair	Andhra Pradesh
4. Marina	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	8. Goa	Goa

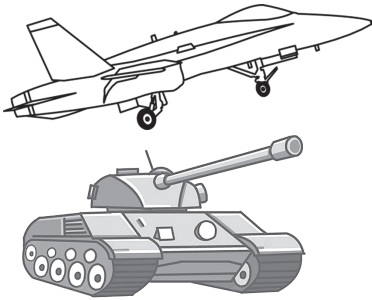
Major Tribes in India

Tribe	State/States	Tribe	State/States
Abors	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh	Kotas	Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu)
Apatamis	Arunachal Pradesh	Kuki	Manipur
Badagas	Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu)	Lepchas	Sikkim
Balga	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat	Lushais	Tripura
Bhotias	Garhwal and Kumaon regions of Uttarakhand	Mina	Rajasthan
Birhor	Hazaribagh (Jharkhand)	Murias	Bastar region in Chattisgarh
Chenchus	Andhra Pradesh, Odisha	Mikirs	Assam
Chhutia	Assam	Monpa	Arunachal Pradesh
Gaddis	Himachal Pradesh	Mundas	Jharkhand
Gallong	North East Himalayan Region	Nagas (Angami, Semi, Ao, Tangkul, Lahora)	Nagaland, Assam
Garos	Meghalaya	Oarons (also called Kurukh)	Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha
Gonds	Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh	Onges	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Jarawas	Little Andamans	Santhals	Birbhum region in West Bengal, Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Palamu in Jharkhand
Khas	Jaunsar-Babar area in U.P.	Sentinelese	Andaman and Nicobar
Khasis	Assam, Meghalaya	Shompens	Andaman and Nicobar
Khonds	Odisha	Todas	Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu)
Kol	Madhya Pradesh	Uralis	Kerala
Kolam	Andhra Pradesh	Warlis	Maharashtra

Special Status of Some Indian States

State	Year of Receiving the Special Status	State	Year of Receiving the Special Status
Assam	1969	Tripura	1972
Nagaland	1969	Sikkim	1975-76
Jammu & Kashmir	1969	Mizoram	1986-87
Himachal Pradesh	1971	Arunachal Pradesh	1986-87
Manipur	1972	Uttarakhand	2001-02
Meghalaya	1972		





DEFENCE

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces is vested in the hands of the President of the Country. The responsibility for national defence, however, rests with the Cabinet. All important questions having a bearing on defence are decided by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, which is presided over by the Prime Minister.

The Defence Minister is responsible to Parliament for all matters concerning the Defence Services. All the administrative and operational control of Armed Forces are exercised by the Ministry of Defence. The three services – Army, Navy and Air Force function through their respective service headquarters headed by the chief of Staff.

Commissioned Ranks in Defence Services

Army	Navy	Air Force
General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
Lieutenant-General	Vice-Admiral	Air Marshal
Major-General	Rear-Admiral	Air Vice-Marshal
Brigadier	Commodor	Air Commodor
Colonel	Captain	Group Captain
Lieutenant-Colonel	Commander	Wing Commander
Major	Lt. Commander	Squadron Leader
Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant
Lieutenant	Sub-Lieutenant	Flying Officer

Internal Security Organisations of India

S.No.	Name of Organisation	Year of Creation	Headquarters
1.	Assam Rifles (A.R.)	1835	Shillong
2.	Central Reserve Police Force (C.R.P.F.)	1939	New Delhi
3.	Territorial Army	1948	In different States
4.	Indo-Tibetan Border Police	1962	New Delhi
5.	Home Guard	1962	In different States
6.	Coast Guard	1978	New Delhi
7.	Border Security Force (B.S.F.)	1965	New Delhi
8.	Central Industrial Security Force (C.I.S.F.)	1969	New Delhi
9.	National Security Guard	1984	New Delhi
10.	Police	—	In different States

■ COMMANDER-IN-CHIEFS OF INDIA

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. General Roy Bucher | Jan. 1, 1948 — Jan. 14, 1949 |
| 2. General K. M. Kariappa | Jan. 15, 1949 — Jan. 14, 1953 |
| 3. General Maharaj Rajendra Sinhji | Jan. 15, 1953 — March 31, 1955 |
| 4. First Marshal of the Indian Air Force | Arjan Singh |

■ FIRST CHIEFS OF STAFF OF INDIAN FORCES

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. General Maharaj Rajendra Sinhji
(Army Staff) | April 1, 1955 — May 14, 1955 |
| 2. Vice Admiral R D. Katari (Naval Staff) | April 22, 1958 — June 4, 1962 |
| 3. Air Marshal Sri Thomas Elmhurst
(Air Staff) | Aug. 15, 1947 — Feb. 21, 1950 |

■ ARMY INSTITUTES

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Sainik Schools upto | 33 places in India |
| 2. Rashtriya Indian Military College
(prepare for entrance to N.D.A) | Dehradun |
| 3. National Defence Academy (three services) | Khadakwasla, Pune |
| 4. Indian Military Academy (Army) | Dehradun |
| 5. Officers Training Academy (3 services) Short Courses | Chennai |
| 6. National Defence College | New Delhi |

■ AIR FORCE INSTITUTIONS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Air Force Academy | Hyderabad |
| 2. Helicopter Training School | Hakimpet |
| 3. Flying Instructors School | Tambaram, Chennai |
| 4. The College of Air Warfare | Secunderabad |
| 5. Air Force Administrative College | Coimbatore |
| 6. Air Force Technical College | Jalahalli |

■ DEFENCE PRODUCTION UNITS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Bharat Dynamites Ltd. | Hyderabad |
| 2. Praga Tools | Hyderabad |
| 3. Mishra Dattu Nigam | Hyderabad |
| 4. Bharat Electronics Ltd. | Bengluru |
| 5. Bharath Earthmovers Ltd. | Bangalore |
| 6. Heavy Vehicles Ltd. | Avadi, Chennai |
| 7. Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd. | Kolkata |
| 8. Mazagaon Dock | Mumbai |
| 9. Goa Shipyard | Marmugao |
| 10. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. | Vishakhapatnam |
| 11. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. | Bengluru, Hyderabad, Nasik,
Korapur, Kanpur, Lucknow |



TRANSPORT

RAILWAYS

Important Facts

1. Indian Railways are the biggest national undertaking.
2. The first Indian railway train rolled on its 34 km track from Mumbai to Thane on April 16, 1853.
3. In 1853 Railways begin in India with private funds and government support.
4. The Chittaranjan Locomotive works, first of its kind in the country, was established after independence on January 26, 1950 but now electric engines are manufactured here. First of all it manufactured steam engines.
5. The number of stations, till 31st March, 2019 is 7,321.
6. As on 31 March, 2019 the total length of Indian railways is 67,415 km.
7. Till 31st March 2019 Indian railways have 12,147 locomotives, 74,000 passenger coaches, and 2,89,185 wagons.
8. About 50.9% of the route kilometres, has been electrified till March, 2019.
9. At present there are thirteen undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways.
10. Railway finance was separated since 1924-25 from the general revenue. It have been merged in general revenue in 2017-18.
11. The only oldest running engine is *Fairy Queen*.
12. The first electric train rolled on from Mumbai to Kurla on 3rd February, 1925.
13. Kolkata Metro Rail is the first underground rail.
14. Delhi Metro Railways started on 24th December, 2002.
15. The longest railway journey which takes 82.30 hours from Dibrugarh to Kanyakumari (4,286 km).
16. The longest railway platform of the world is Gorakhpur. Its length is 1355.4 m.

17. The longest tunnel of Indian railways between Banihal and Qazigund stations in J&K is 11.21 km long.
18. Indian Railway Board was established in 1905.
19. Indian Railways have three gauges—Broad gauge, metre gauge and narrow gauge.
20. In railways, there are A.C., first class and second class. Third class was removed in 1974.
21. Computer reservation facility is covering the 95% of the passenger population.
22. Nehru Setu is built on river Sone.

Zones and Headquarters of Indian Railways

S. No.	Zone	Headquarters
1.	Central	Mumbai (Victoria Terminus)
2.	Eastern	Kolkata
3.	Northern	New Delhi
4.	North-Eastern	Gorakhpur
5.	North-East Frontier	Maligaon, Guwahati
6.	Southern	Chennai
7.	South-Central	Secunderabad
8.	South-Eastern	Kolkata
9.	Western	Mumbai, Churchgate
10.	East Coast	Bhubaneswar
11.	East Central	Hajipur
12.	North Central	Allahabad
13.	North Western	Jaipur
14.	South Western	Bangaluru (Hubli)
15.	West Central	Jabalpur
16.	South East Central	Bilaspur
17.	Kolkata Metro Railway	Kolkata
18.	South Coast Railway (Proposed)	Vishakhapatnam

ROAD TRANSPORT

Important Facts

1. The road network in India is one of the largest in the world.
2. The total length of roads, till March 31, 2018 is 59.64 lakh km.
3. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) is a road construction executive force.
4. The Central Government owns the responsibility of 1,32,499 km long national highways.
5. Border Road Organisation was established in 1960.
6. Though the national highways do not constitute even 2 per cent of the total road length of the country, they bear about 40% of the traffic.
7. In our country, Maharashtra has the highest length of roads whereas the lowest length of road has Lakshadweep.
8. National Highways Development Project has been launched to link the four corners of the country by four or six lanes in a network. The four major cities—Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai will be linked by 5,882 km long roads in golden quadrilateral.
9. Indian roads have been divided into three parts—(a) National Highways (b) State Highways (c) Border Roads.
10. NH44 is the longest and NH47A is smallest highway of India.

SHIPPING

Important Facts

1. India has 7,516 km long coast line.
2. India has the largest merchant shipping fleet among the developing countries and ranks 17th in the world in shipping tonnage.
3. Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Kochi is the largest shipyard in the country.
4. Mumbai is the biggest port in the country. It is a natural harbour and handles more than one-fifth of the total traffic of the ports.
5. The public sector company, The Shipping Corporation of India Limited was established on 2nd October, 1961.
6. There are 13 major ports in the country apart from about 200 minor ports. Major ports are under Central Government and others are maintained by State Governments.

Major Ports of the Country

1. Kolkata/Haldia
2. Mumbai
3. Nhava Sheva (J.L. Nehru Port)
4. Tuticorin,

5. Chennai
6. Mormugao
7. New Mangalore
8. Paradeep
9. Kandla
10. Vishakhapatnam
11. Cochin
12. Port Blair
13. Ennore.

CIVIL AVIATION

Consequent upon merger of erstwhile Air India Ltd. and Indian Airlines, a new company viz., National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) was incorporated. Consequently post merger, the new entity is known as "Air India" and the appointed date of the merger is 1 April, 2007. The "Maharaja" is retained as its mascot. The Registered Office of the Company is in New Delhi. Air India Ltd. is basically a passenger orientated airlines operating to 72 online domestic stations (including Alliance Air) and 42 international destinations in 28 countries.

Major International Airports : Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport), Mumbai (Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport), Kolkata (Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport), Chennai (Anna Airport), Amritsar (Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee Airport) and Kerala (Trivendrum Airport).





PLANNING IN INDIA

The need for planning was felt in India even before independence. The Planning Commission was set up in 1950. It was an advisory body engaged

in the task of meaningful national planning. The government on January 1, 2015 replaced Planning Commission with a NITI Aayog.

Five Year Plans in India

Plans	Period	Investment (Rs. Crore)	Objectives
First Plan	April 1, 1951-March 31, 1956	1,960	Priority to agriculture, electricity and irrigation.
Second Plan	April 1, 1956—March 31, 1961	4,672	Development of basic and heavy industries.
Third Plan	April 1, 1961—March 31, 1966	8,577	Long term development of India's economy.
Annual Plan	April 1, 1966—March 31, 1967	2,137	
Annual Plan	April 1, 1967—March 31, 1968	2,205	
Annual Plan	April 1, 1968—March 31, 1969	2,283	
Fourth Plan	April 1, 1969—March 31, 1974	15,779	Enlarge the income of rural population and supply of goods of mass consumption.
Fifth Plan	April 1, 1974—March 31, 1979	39,426	Attain increased self reliance and employment avenues.
Annual Plan	April 1, 1979—March 31, 1980	12,176	
Sixth Plan	April 1, 1980—March 31, 1985	1,09,292	Removal of unemployment
Seventh Plan	April 1, 1985—March 31, 1990	2,18,730	Food work and productivity were the basic priorities.
Eighth Plan	April, 1992—March 31, 1997	4,95,670	Raising employment
Ninth Plan	April 1, 1997—March 31, 2002	9,41,041	Agriculture and rural development

Plans	Period	Investment (Rs. Crore)	Objectives
Tenth Plan	April 1, 2002—March 31, 2007	14,91,610	Growth rate 7.8 per cent per annum.
Eleventh Plan	April 1, 2007—March 31, 2012	36,44,718	Literacy, Employment, Rural development & Transport development.
Twelfth Plan	April 1, 2012—March 31, 2017	43,30,000	Longterm development of India's economy.

■ 15-YEAR VISION PLAN

With the end of the Twelfth Plan in March 2017 the era of five year plans came to an end. NITI Aayog has come forward with a draft 15-year vision plan to catapult the country's economy to more than three times as compared to the present day. The new plan is set to replace the centralised five-year plans the country has been following for decades. The new plan is accompanied by shorter sub-plans—a seven-year strategy for 2017-24, and a three-year 'Action Agenda' from 2017-18 to 2019-20. No less than 300 specific action points covering a wide range of sectors have been drawn up as part of the 15-year vision.

■ FINANCE COMMISSION

Article 280 of the Constitution provides for the appointment of a finance commission every five year. President appoints chairman and members of this commission. Finance commission are to recommend to President the basis for the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the centre and the states and the principles which

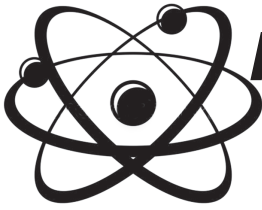
should govern the grants-in-aid to be given to the states out of the consolidated funds of India.

■ NITI AAYOG

NITI Ayog is formed on the place of Planning Commission in 2015. It is not a constitutional body. Chairperson of this Aayog is Prime Minister.

■ NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The National Development Council, set-up in 1952, consists of representatives of the Central Government as well as the State governments. It is the supreme body insofar as planning is concerned and it determines policies, issues guidelines, reviews working of the plan and finally approves the plan. The Council consists of the Prime Minister (Chairman), all Union Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories and the Chairman and members of the NITI Aayog. For matters relating to Plans and planning, the Union Minister of Planning is responsible to the Parliament.



ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE RESEARCH

Atomic Energy: Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was set up in August 1948. It is responsible for the application of atomic energy in India for peaceful purposes. At Trombay near Bombay (Maharashtra) there are (a) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and (b) six nuclear research reactors named (i) Apsara, (ii) Cirus, (iii) Zerlina, (iv) Purnima I, (v) Purnima II, and (vi) Dhruva: Dhruva is the country's biggest research reactor. There are seven nuclear power stations: (i) Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu), (ii) Rawatbhata (Rajasthan), (iii) Tarapur (Maharashtra), (iv) Narora (U.P.), (v) Kakrapara (Gujarat), (vi) Kaiga (Karnataka) and (vii) Kudankulam (Tamil Nadu).

Atomic Blast by India: On May 18, 1974 India carried out an underground "peaceful nuclear explosion experiment" at Pokhran (Rajasthan) at 8.05 a.m. at a depth of more than 100 metres and thus she became the world's sixth nuclear power: the first five being—USA, Russia, UK, France and China.

Again, India conducted 5 Nuclear Tests on May 11 and 13, 1998 in Pokhran (Rajasthan).

Space Research: In June 1972, Space Commission was set up. The Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in Kerala was dedicated to the U.N.O. in February 1968. The Satellite Launching Station has been established at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

FIRST IN SPACE

First creator of rules regarding space research	— Isaac Newton
First artificial satellite launched in space	— Sputnik-1 (1957)
First living being sent in space	— Louika (a dog)
First ever manned spacecraft	— Vostok-I
First man in space	— Yuri Gagarin U.S.S.R. (1961)
First woman in space	— Valentina Tereshkova U.S.S.R. (June 1963)

- First man who moved in space out of the spacecraft — Alexi Livonov U.S.S.R. (June 1965)
- First person to land on moon — Neil Armstrong, America (21st July, 1969)
- First fourwheeled carriage without human being on moon — Leunokhev-I U.S.S.R. (1970)
- First space lab in orbit — Skylab (America, 1973)
- First space shuttle — Columbia (America, 1981)
- First Indian (man) in space — Squadron leader—Rakesh Sharma (13th April, 1984)
- First Indian (Woman) in space — Kalpana Chawla (19th Nov., 1997)
- First American woman in space — Sailyride (1983)
- First spacecraft on Mars — Pathfinder (6 July, 1997)
- First woman who lead spacecraft — Allin Collis (America)
- First spacecraft without man — Shenzoo, China (20th Nov. 1999)

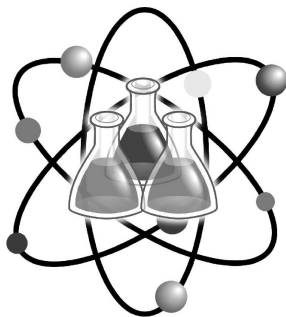
Indian Space Programme : At a Glance

Satellite	Date	Type	Launch Vehicle	Result
Aryabhatta	19-04-75	Scientific	Cosmos	successful
Bhaskara I	07-06-79	Geosurvey	Cosmos	successful
Rohini D-1	18-07-80	Geosurvey	S.L.V.3	successful
Apple	19-06-81	Communication	Ariane	successful
Bhaskara II	20-11-81	Geosurvey	Cosonos	successful
Rohini	17-04-83	Scientific	S.L.V.3	successful
SROSS-4	04-05-94	Scientific	ASLV-D3	successful
IRS-ID	29-09-97	Remote sensing	PSLV	successful
INSAT-3A	10-04-2003	Multipurpose	Ariane-5	successful
CARTOSAT-1 & HAMSAT	05-05-2005	Mapping and Communication	PSLV-C6	successful
INSAT-4A	22-12-2005	Communication	Ariane-5	successful
CARTOSAT-2	10-01-2007	Communication	PSLV-C7	successful
INSAT-4CR	02-09-2007	Communication	GSLV-Fo4	successful
CARTOSAT-2A	28-04-2008	Communication	PSLV-C9	successful
Chandrayaan-I	22-10-2008	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C11	successful
RISAT-2&ANUSAT	20-04-2009	Mapping and Communication	PSLV-C12	successful
Oceansat-2	24-09-2009	Remote Sensing	PSLV-C14	successful

90 || General Knowledge

Satellite	Date	Type	Launch Vehicle	Result
CARTOSAT-2B	12-07-2010	Communication	PSLV-C15	successful
GSAT-8	21-05-2011	Communication	Ariane-5	successful
GSAT-12	15-07-2011	Communication	PSLV-C17	successful
Spot-6	09-09-2012	Remote Sensing	PSLV-C21	successful
GSAT-7	30-08-2013	Defence	Arian-5	successful
Mars Orbiter Mission	05-11-2013	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C25	successful
IRNSS-1B	04--04-2014	Mapping & Scientific	PSLV-C24	successful
Spot-7	30-06-2014	Remote Sensing	PSLV-C23	successful
IRNSS--1C	16-10-2014	Mapping & Scientific	PSLV-C26	Successful
GSAT-16	07-12-2014	Communication	Ariane-5	Successful
IRNSS-1D	28-03-2015	Mapping & Scientific	PSLV-C27	Successful
GSAT-6	28-07-2015	Communication	GSLV-D6	Successful
Astrosat	28-09-2015	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C30	successful
TELEOS-1	16-12-2015	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C29	successful
IRNSS-1E	20-01-2016	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C31	successful
IRNSS-1G	28-04-2016	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C33	successful
CARTOSAT-2 & others	22-06-2016	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C34	successful
INSAT-3DR	08-09-2016	Multipurpose	GSLV-F05	successful
SCATSAT-1 & others	26-09-2016	Multipurpose	PSLV-C35	successful
GSAT-18	06-10-2016	Communication	Ariane-5	successful
RESOURCESAT-2A	07-12-2016	Remote Sensing	PSLV-C36	successful
103 others	15-02-2017	Multipurpose	PSLV-C37	successful
GSAT-19	05-06-2017	Communication	GSLV-Mark-3D1	successful
CARTOSAT-2F & others	12-01-2018	Communication	PSLV-C40	successful
IRNSS-II	12-04-2018	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C41	successful
Nova-Sar & 51-04	16-09-2018	Mapping	PSLV-C42	successful
MICROSAT-R	24-01-2019	Mapping	PSLV-C44	successful
RISAT-2B	22-05-2019	Mapping and Scientific	PSLV-C46	successful
Chandrayaan-2	22-07-2019	Mapping and Scientific	GSLV-MK-III	successful
RISAT2BR1	11-12-2019	Earth Imaging	PSLV-C48	successful
GSAT-20	17-01-2020	Communication	Ariane-5	successful
EOS-01	07-11-2020	Earth Observation	PSLV-C49	successful





GENERAL SCIENCE

■ BRANCHES OF SCIENCE

Anatomy: The Science dealing with the structure of animals, plants or human body.

Acoustics: The study of sound.

Astrology: The science that deals with the influence of heavenly bodies on human affairs.

Aeronautics: Study of flight.

Calisthenics: The systematic exercises for attaining strength and gracefulness.

Ceramics: The art and technology of making objects from clay etc. (Pottery)

Chronology: The Science of arranging time in periods and ascertaining the dates and historical order of past events.

Ecology: The study of the relation of animals and plants to their surroundings animates and inanimates.

Entomology: The study of insects.

Horticulture: The science dealing with cultivation of flowers, fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants.

Mycology: The study of fungi and fungus diseases.

Numismatics: The study of coins and medals.

Ornithology: The study of birds.

Philology: The study of written record (any languages) and their authenticity etc.

Philately: The study and collection of postage stamps.

Phycology: The study of algae.

Toxicology: The study of poisons.

■ UNITS

watts-Power; **ohm**-Electric resistance; **hertz**-frequency of wave; **dyne**-relative units of force; **calorie**-Heat; **fathom**-Depth of Sea; **light year**-unit of astronomical distance; **candela**-Luminescence; **ampere**-Electric Current; **knot**-Speed of Ship; **bar**-Atmospheric Pressure; **decibel**-Loudness of Sound; **angstrom**-Wavelength of light (angle); **carat**-Weight of Gold; **newton**-Force; **coulomb**-Charge.

■ SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

Barometer: Used for measuring the atmospheric pressure.

Audiometer: Used for measuring intensity of sound.

Gyroscope: Used to illustrate dynamics of rotating bodies.

Hygrometer: Used for measuring humidity in air.

Odometer: Used in vehicles to measure the distance.

Cardiogram: Used for tracing the movement of heart.

Lactometer: Used for measuring the purity of milk.

Sextant: Used for measuring distance of objects.

Seismograph: Used for recording the earthquake shocks.

Spherometer: Used for measuring curvature of a spherical body.

Radiator: Used in vehicles to provide cooling.

■ VITAMIN & DIET DEFICIENCY

Vitamin	Disease	Sources
Vitamin A	Night Blindness	Carrot, milk, eggs, Papaya
Vitamin B	Beri-Beri	Pulses, eggs, groundnut
Vitamin B ₂	Cheilosis	Liver, milk, meat
Vitamin B ₆	Anaemia	Liver, milk, meat
Vitamin B ₃	Pellagra	Fish, eggs
Vitamin B ₁₂	Bloodlessness	Liver, eggs
Vitamin C	Scurvy	Orange, tomato, lemon
Vitamin D	Rickets	Sunlight, eggs, butter, fish oil
Vitamin E	Sterility	Green vegetable, milk, liver
Vitamin K	delay in Blood Clotting	Green vegetable

■ DISEASES AND THE PARTS OF BODY THEY AFFECT

Disease	Part of body affected
AIDS	Immune system of body
Arthritis	Inflammation of joints
Asthma	Lungs
Cataract	Eyes
Conjunctivitis	Eyes
Diabetes	Pancreas
Diphtheria	Throat
Glaucoma	Eyes
Eczema	Skin
Goitre	Front of the neck (due to enlargement of thyroid gland)

Disease	Part of body affected
Gout	Joints of bone
Jaundice	Liver
Meningitis	Brain or spinal cord
Pleurisy	Pleura (inflammation of)
Polio	motor neurons
Pneumonia	Lungs
Pyorrhoea	Sockets of teeth
Tuberculosis	Lungs
Typhoid	Intestine
Malaria	Spleen
Leukaemia	Blood
Rickets	Bones

INVENTIONS AND DISCOVERIES

Important Inventions

Name of Invention	Inventor	Nationality	Year
Aeroplane	Orville & Wilbur Wright	U.S.A	1903
Ball-Point Pen	John J. Loud	U.S.A.	1888
Barometer	Evangelista Torricelli	Italy	1644
Bicycle	Kirkpatrick Macmillan	Britain	1839-40
Bifocal Lens	Benjamin Franklin	U.S.A.	1780
Car (Petrol)	Karl Benz	Germany	1888
Celluloid	Alexander Parkes	Britain	1861
Cinema	Nicolas and Jean Lumiere	France	1895
Diesel Engine	Rudolf Diesel	Germany	1895
Dynamo	Hypolite Pixii	France	1832
Electric Lamp	Thomas Alva Edison	U.S.A.	1879
Electric Motor (DC)	Zenobe Gramme	Belgium	1873
Electric Motor (AC)	Nikola Tesla	U.S.A.	1888
Electromagnet	William Sturgeon	Britain	1824
Electronic Computer	Dr. Alan M Turing	Britain	1943
Fountain Pen	Lewis E. Waterman	U.S.A.	1884
Gramophone	Thomas Alva Edison	U.S.A.	1878
Helicopter	Etienne Oehnichen	France	1924
Jet Engine	Sir Frank Whittle	Britain	1937
Laser	Charles H. Townes	U.S.A.	1960
Locomotive	Richard Trevithick	Britain	1804
Microphone	Alexander Graham Bell	U.S.A.	1876
Microscope	Z. Janssen	Netherlands	1590
Motor Cycle	G. Daimler	Germany	1885
Printing Press	Johann Gutenberg	Germany	1455
Razor (safety)	King C. Gillette	U.S.A.	1895
Refrigerator	James Harrison & Alexander Catlin	U.S.A.	1850
Safety Pin	Walter Hunt	U.S.A.	1849
Sewing machine	Barthelemy Thimmonnier	France	1829
Ship (steam)	J.C. Perier	France	1775
Skyscraper	W. Le Baron Jenny	U.S.A.	1882
Slide Rule	William Oughtred	Britain	1621
Steam Engine (condenser)	James Watt	Britain	1765
Steel Production	Henry Bessemer	Britain	1855
Steel (stainless)	Harry Brearley	Britain	1913
Submarine	David Bushnell	U.S.A.	1776
Telegraph	M. Lammond	France	1787
Telephone (perfected)	Alexander Graham Bell	U.S.A.	1876
Television (mechanical)	John Logie Baird	Britain	1926
Television (electronic)	P.T. Farnsworth	U.S.A.	1927
Thermometer	Galileo Galilei	Italy	1593
Transformer	Michael Faraday	Britain	1831
Transistor	Bardeen, Shockley & Brattain	U.S.A.	1948
Washing Machine (elect.)	Hurley Machine Co.	U.S.A.	1907
Zip-Fastener	W.L. Judson	U.S.A.	1891

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPLORATIONS/DISCOVERIES

Place	Explorer/Discoverers	Nationality	Year
America	Christopher Columbus	Italy	1492
Hawaii Islands (Sandwich Islands)	Captain James Cook	England	1778
Newfoundland	John Cabot	England	1497
New Zealand	Abel Janszoon Tasman	Holland	1642
North Pole	Robert Peary	USA	1909
Sea Route to India (via Cape of Good Hope)	Vasco da Gama	Portugal	1498
South Pole	Roald Amundsen	Norway	1911

Important Discoveries

Discovery	Discoverer	Nationality	Year
Aluminium	Hans Christian Oerstedt	Denmark	1827
Atomic number	Henry Moseley	England	1913
Chlorine	C.W. Scheele	Sweden	1774
Electromagnetic induction	Michael Faraday	England	1831
Electromagnetic waves	Heinrich Hertz	Germany	1886
Electromagnetism	Hans Christian Oersted	Denmark	1920
Electron	Sir Joseph Thomson	England	1897
General theory of relativity	Albert Einstein	Switzerland	1915
Hydrogen	Henry Cavendish	England	1766
Law of electric conduction	Georg Ohm	Germany	1827
Law of electromagnetism	Andre Ampere	France	1826
Laws of gravitation & motion	Isaac Newton	England	1687
Laws of planetary motion	Johannes Kepler	Germany	1609-19
Magnesium	Sir Humphry Davy	England	1808
Neutron	James Chadwick	England	1932
Nitrogen	Daniel Rutherford	England	1772
Oxygen	Joseph Priestly	England	1772
	C.W. Scheele	Sweden	
Ozone	Christian Schonbein	Germany	1839
Plutonium	G.T. Seaborg	U.S.A.	1940
Proton	Ernest Rutherford	England	1919
Radioactivity	Antoine Henery Bacquerel	France	1896
Radium	Pierre and Marie Curie	France	1898
Silicon	Jons Berzelius	Sweden	1824
Sun as centre of solar system	Copernicus	Poland	1543
Uranium	Martin Klaproth	Germany	1789
X-rays	Willhelm Roentgen	Germany	1895



INDIAN HISTORY

FAMOUS SITES OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Name of Site	Year of Excavation	River/Sea coast	Discoverer
Harappa (Montgomery–Pakistan)	1921	Ravi River	Dayarm Sahney
Mohanjodaro (Larkana–Pakistan)	1922	Indus River	Rakhal Das Banerjee
Chanhudaro (Sindh–Pakistan)	1931	Indus River	N.G. Mazumdar
Alamgir (Meerut – U.P.)	1952-55	Hindan River	Yagyadatta Sharma
Ropar (Punjab)	1953	Sutlej River	Yagyadatta Sharma
Rangpur (Kathiabar–Gujarat)	1953	Bhabar River	Madho Swaroop Vatsa, Rang Nath Rao
Kotdigi (Sindh–Pakistan)	1953	Indus River	Fazal Ahmed Khan
Lothal (Ahmedabad–Gujarat)	1954	Bhogwa River	Rang Nath Rao
Kalibanga (Ganganagar–Rajasthan)	1961	Ghaggar	Brajwasi Lal River
Surkotara (Kutch–Gujarat)	1967	Ghaggar River	Ravindra Singh Vishta
Banawali (Hissar Haryana)	1973	Ghaggar River	Ravindra Singh Vishta
Balakote	1979	Arabian Sea	George F. Dales
Dhaulavira (Gujarat)	1963-68	—	J.P. Joshi
	1990-91	—	Dr. R.S. Vishta

WELLKNOWN QUOTATIONS

"Swarajya is My Birthright"	— Bal Gangadhar Tilak
"Give me blood, I shall give you freedom"	— Netajee Subhash Chandra Bose
"Inqalab Zindabad"	— Bhagat Singh
Saare Jahan Se Achcha, Hindustan Hamara"	— Dr. Mohammed Iqbal
"Dilli Chalو"	— Subhash Chandra Bose
"Sarfarooshi ki tamanna, Ab Hamare Dil Mein Hai."	— Ram Prasad Bismil
"I am socialist by nature".	— Jawahar Lal Nehru
"Go to Vedas"	— Swami Dayanand
"Aaram Haram Hai"	— Jawahar Lal Nehru
"Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan"	— Lal Bahadur Shastri

"Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan"	— Atal Behari Vajpayee
"Speak less, work more"	— Sanjay Gandhi
"Vijayee Vishwa Tiranga Pyara"	— Shyam Lal Gupta
"Quit India"	— Mahatma Gandhi
"Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan"	— Bhartendu Harishchandra
"Purna Swaraja"	— Jawahar Lal Nehru
"Every lathi blow inflicted on my body will prove a nail in British coffin"	— Lala Lajpat Rai
"Jai Hind"	— Subhash Chandra Bose
"Do or die"	— Mahatma Gandhi
"Who lives if India dies"	— Jawahar Lal Nehru
"Vande Mataram"	— Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
"Jana Gana Mana Adhinayaka Jai Hai"	— Rabindranath Tagore
"Hate sin, not the sinner."	— Mahatma Gandhi
"Service of the people is the service of God"	— Swami Vivekananda
"Truth and non-violence are my God."	— Mahatma Gandhi

BATTLES AND WARS IN INDIA

War	Year	Result
<i>Battle of Kalinga</i>	(261 B.C.)	Ashoka defeated the king of Kalinga
<i>Second battle of Tarain</i>	(1192 A.D.)	Muhammad Gori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan
<i>First battle of Panipat</i>	(1526 A.D.)	Babar defeated Ibrahim Lodi
<i>Battle of Khandawa</i>	(1527 A.D.)	Babar defeated Rana Sanga
<i>Battle of Chausa</i>	(1539 A.D.)	Shershah Suri defeated Humayun and became ruler of Delhi
<i>Second Battle of Panipat</i>	(1556 A.D.)	Akbar defeated Hemu
<i>Battle of Talikota</i>	(1565 A.D.)	Allied forces of Bijapur, Bidar, Golkunda and Ahamadnagar defeated the King of Vijay Nagar
<i>Battle of Haldighati</i>	(1576 A.D.)	Some historian say that this battle was indecisive but some say that Rana Pratap was defeated by Akbar
<i>Battle of Palasey</i>	(1757 A.D.)	British forces defeated Nawab of Bengal Sirajudoulla
<i>Battle of Wandiwash</i>	(1760 A.D.)	British forces defeated the French
<i>Third battle of Panipat</i>	(1761 A.D.)	Maratha were defeated by Ahmad Shah Abdali
<i>Battle of Buxar</i>	(1764 A.D.)	British forces defeated the combined forces of Mir Quasim. Shah Alam Mughal empire and Awadh's Nawab
<i>Third Anglo-Maratha War</i>	(1792 A.D.)	Maratha were conclusively defeated
<i>Fourth Anglo-Mysore War</i>	(1799 A.D.)	Tipu Sultan died fighting the British forces
<i>Second Anglo-Sikh War</i>	(1848 A.D.)	British forces annexed Punjab from Sikh rulers
<i>Indo-China War</i>	(1962 A.D.)	China attacked India unilaterally and annexed some area
<i>Indo-Pak War</i>	(1965 A.D.)	Pakistan attacked India but had to suffer severe setbacks
<i>Indo-Pak War</i>	(1971 A.D.)	Pak declare war against India.

BRITISH GOVERNORS-GENERAL AND VICEROYS

BRITISH GOVERNORS-GENERAL

Warren Hastings (1772-1785): End of dual government in Bengal; Foundation of Asiatic society of Bengal (1784); Chait Singh and Nand Kumar case.

Lord Cornwallis (1786-1793): Introduction of the permanent settlement in Bengal and Bihar (1793); Separation of revenue and judiciary; Introduction of civil service.

Lord Wellesley (1798-1805): Introduction of the system of Subsidiary Alliance (1798).

Lord Hastings (1813-1823): End of Maratha Power (1818); Pidari-war (1817-1818)

Lord William Bentinck (1828-1835): Prohibition of Sati (1829) + first governor-general of India; 'Macaulay's Minutes' and introduction of English as the medium of instruction (1835)

Charles Metcalf (1835-36): "Librater of press", freed the Indian press of restrictions (1835)

Lord Dalhousie (1848-1856): Application of the 'Doctrine of Lapse'; Annexation of Punjab and Awadh; Wood's despatch on education (1854); Introduction of the Railway, Telegraph, Postal System.

VICEROYS

Lord Canning (1856-57): (Vice-roy-1858-62) Establishment of three Universities [at Calcutta (now Kolkata), Madras (now Chennai) and Bombay (now Mumbai)] 1857; Revolt of 1857/first viceroy of India.

Lord Mayo (1869-72): Organisation of Statistical Survey of India; He was assassinated in Andamans (1872).

Lord Lytton (1876-80): Vernacular Press Act and the Arms Act (1878); Assumption of the title of 'Empress of India' by Queen Victoria (1876). Delhi Darbar (1877).

Lord Ripon (1880-84): First census in India (1881); Introduction of Local self government; Repeal of Vernacular press act; first factory Act (1881); The 'Ilbert bill' controversy (1883).

Lord Dufferin (1884-88): Foundation of the Indian National Congress (1885)

Lord Curzon (1899-1905): Partition of Bengal (1905); Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (1904); Indian University Act (1904).

Lord Harding (1910-1916): Division of Bengal taken back, Bomb thrown on Viceroys, Capital changed from Calcutta to Delhi.

Lord Chelmsford (1916-21): Lucknow Pact between the Congress and Muslim League; Rowlatt Act (March 1919); Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre (13 April, 1919).

Lord Irwin (1926-31): Simon's Commission boycotted (1927), first round table conference (1930).

Lord Linlithgow (1936-43): Provincial election (1937); Cripps Mission (March 1942); 'Quit India' Movement (8 August, 1942).

Lord Wavell (1943-47): Wavell plan (1945), Cabinet Mission (1946); First meeting of constituent assembly, (9 Dec. 46).

Lord Mountbatten (1947-48): Last British governor general; Independence and division of India (15 Aug. 47).

Chakrawarti Rajgopalachari (1948-50): First and last Indian governor general of India.

FAMOUS NEWSPAPERS AND THEIR FOUNDER/EDITORS

Paper/Journal	Year	Founder/Editor
Bengal Gazette (First Newspaper of India)	1780	James Augustus Hickey
Samachar Darshan (Bengali)	1818	Karie, Marshman
Sambad Kaumudi	1921-22	Raja Ram Mohan Roy
Bombay Times (Now Times of India)	(1838-1861)	Benett Coleman and Company
Spat Gofar	1861	Dada Bhai Naurojee
Hindu Patriot	1853	Harishchandra Mukherjee
Amrit Bazar Patrika	1868	Motilal Ghosh, Shishir Kumar Ghosh
Statesman	1875	Robert Knight, Sunanda Dutta Ray
Hindu	1878	Veer Raghavachari
Maratha, Kesari	1881	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Hindustan Times	1922	K.M. Pannikar
Dawn	—	Mohammed Ali Jinnah
Independent	1919	Motilal Nehru
New India	1914	Annie Besant
Vande Mataram	1906	Aurobindo Ghosh
Al-Hilal	1912	Maulana Azad
Young India, Harijan	(1919-33)	Mahatma Gandhi

IMPORTANT DATES OF INDIAN HISTORY

B.C.

- ◆ **2500-1500:** Indus Valley Civilization
- ◆ **563:** Birth of Gautam Buddha; Nirvana 483 B.C.
- ◆ **540:** Birth of Mahavir; Nirvana 468 B.C.
- ◆ **327-326:** Alexander's invasion of India
- ◆ **273-232:** Ashoka's Reign
- ◆ **58:** Beginning of Vikrama Era

A.D.

- ◆ **320-500:** Gupta Dynasty — the golden age of Hindu India

- ◆ **405-411:** Visit of Fahien (Chinese Traveller)
- ◆ **606-647:** Harsh Vardhana's reign; visit of Hiuen-Tsang—Chinese traveller
- ◆ **1001:** First invasion of India by Mahmud of Ghazni
- ◆ **1192:** Mohammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan at Tarain.
- ◆ **1498:** Discovery of sea-route to India by Vasco-da-Gama
- ◆ **1526:** First Battle of Panipat; Babar founded the Moghul Empire
- ◆ **1600:** East India Company established (Dec. 31)

- ◆ **1659-** Reign of Aurangzeb; Beginning of the end of the Moghul Empire
- ◆ **1761:** Third Battle of Panipat
- ◆ **1764:** Battle of Buxar (Bihar)
- ◆ **1835:** Macaulay recommended English to be the medium of instruction
- ◆ **1853:** First Railway Line opened in India
- ◆ **1857:** Indian Mutiny for Independence; Kolkata, Bombay and Madras Universities founded
- ◆ **1869:** Birth of Mahatma Gandhi
- ◆ **1885:** Indian National Congress founded
- ◆ **1889:** Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru born (Nov. 14)
- ◆ **1905:** Partition of Bengal
- ◆ **1919:** Jalianwala Bagh Tragedy
- ◆ **1920:** Non-cooperation Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi
- ◆ **1928:** Simon Commission boycotted
- ◆ **1929:** Resolution for Purna Swaraj passed at the Lahore Congress under the Presidentship of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru (Dec.31)
- ◆ **1932:** Third Round Table Conference in London
- ◆ **1937:** Provincial Autonomy; Congress accepted Ministries in provinces
- ◆ **1942:** Arrival of Cripps in India; 'Quit India' resolution passed by Congress
- ◆ **1943-:** Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose forms Azad Hind Fauz
- ◆ **1947:** Division of India — India and Pakistan formed into separate Independent Dominions
- ◆ **1948:** Mahatma Gandhi assassinated (Jan. 30)
- ◆ **1950:** Indian Constitution signed and adopted; India becomes a Sovereign Democratic Republic; Death of Sardar Patel
- ◆ **1951:** First Five Year Plan started
- ◆ **1952:** First General Elections in the country
- ◆ **1956:** States' Reorganisation Act, India divided into 14 States and 6 Union Territories
- ◆ **1961:** The Portuguese possessions in Goa, Daman and Diu liberated (December 18)
- ◆ **1962:** China's massive invasion of India (October 20); Emergency declared by the President (October 26)
- ◆ **1964:** Death of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru (May 27)
- ◆ **1965:** Pakistan attacked the Indian territory at Kutch (April 24)
- ◆ **1966:** Taskent Agreement signed (Jan.10); Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri died at Taskent (Jan 11); Mrs. Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India (Jan 24); New States of Punjab and Haryana came into being (Nov. 1)
- ◆ **1969:** 14 big banks nationalised; Congress divided.
- ◆ **1971:** General Insurance nationalised; Indo-Pak War; Emergency declared (December 3); Dhaka liberated by Indian Forces
- ◆ **1972:** India's N-East region reorganised — Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura became full-fledged

States; Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh — the two new Union Territories came into being; Shimla Agreement

- ◆ **1973:** 24th Amendment to the Constitution empowering Parliament to amend any part of the Constitution including the Fundamental Rights held valid by the Supreme Court
- ◆ **1974:** India explodes nuclear device (May 18)
- ◆ **1975:** Sikkim became full-fledged State of India; First Indian satellite 'Aryabhata' launched (April 19); Emergency declared due to internal disturbances (June 26).
- ◆ **1977:** Janata Party founded; 6th General Elections—Congress routed, first ever non-Congress government installed at the Centre.
- ◆ **1978:** High denomination currency demonetized; Mrs Gandhi forms Congress (I).
- ◆ **1979:** Second satellite Bhaskara launched; Mr. Morarji Desai resigns as Prime Minister (July 15); Jaya Prakash Narain dead (October 8).
- ◆ **1980:** Massive win of Congress-I in Mid-term polls; Mrs. Gandhi again became the Prime Minister; Six more commercial banks nationalised.
- ◆ **1982:** Ninth Asiad held in New Delhi.
- ◆ **1984:** Sqn Ldr. Rakesh Sharma became first Indian to go into space through joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission (April 3-11); Metro Rail commences operation in Kolkata (Oct. 24); Assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi (Oct. 31).
- ◆ **1988:** Bill to reduce voting age to 18 passed by Parliament (Dec. 15)
- ◆ **1989:** India successfully launched 'Agni' (May 22); V.P. Singh sworn in as Prime Minister (Dec. 2).
- ◆ **1990:** V P Singh's government voted out of power (Nov. 7); Chandra Shekhar sworn in as PM (Nov 10).
- ◆ **1991:** PM Rajiv Gandhi assassinated (May 21); P V Narasimha Rao sworn in as India's 9th PM (June 21).
- ◆ **1992:** Narasimha Rao elected Congress President (Feb. 27); SD Sharma elected 9th President of India (July 16); Structure of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya demolished (Dec. 6).
- ◆ **1993:** Autonomy for Bodo Areas (Feb. 19); OBC job quota of 27% effective (Sep. 8).
- ◆ **1994:** Panchayati Raj Act came into force (April 23); New telecom policy, allowing privatisation for basic telephone services announced (May 13).
- ◆ **1995:** INSAT-2C launched into orbit (Dec. 7); IRS-1C put into orbit (Dec. 28).
- ◆ **1996:** Enron Project revived (Jan. 8); PSLV-D3 launched from Sriharikota (March 21); Atal Behari Bajpayee became PM (May 16); Bajpayee govt. resigned (May 28).
- ◆ **1997:** Rocket 'Pinaka' testfired successfully (Jan. 21); I.K. Gujral took over as India's 13th P.M. (April 21); Shri K.R. Narayanan was sworn-in as President of India (July 25).

- ◆ **1998** : India conducts Nuclear Tests (May 11 and 13); Formation of six member National Security Council (Nov 19).
- ◆ **1999** : PM Vajpayee's bus trip to Lahore (Feb 20); 'AGNI-II' missile testfired successfully (April 11); Indian armed forces start 'Operation Vijay' against Pakistani armed intruders crossing LOC in Kargil sector (May 25).
- ◆ **2000** : INSAT-3B launched from Kourou (Mar 22); Jharkhand State bill passed by Rajya Sabha (Aug 10).
- ◆ **2001** : GSLV-D1 launched (April 18); Terrorist attack on Parliament. All five militants killed (Dec. 13)
- ◆ **2002** : Mob attacked train in Gujarat, 58 died (February 27); Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam sworn in as 12th President (July 25); Metro train service started in New Delhi (Dec. 24)
- ◆ **2003** : GSLV-D2 launched (May 8); India launches INSAT-3E from Kourou in French Guiana (Sep. 28).
- ◆ **2004** : Maj RS Rathore got India its first individual silver in Athens Olympics (Aug. 17); South Coastal India hit by earthquake Tsunami (Dec. 26).
- ◆ **2005** : 20 States introduced VAT regime (April 1); Rural job Bill passed in LS (August 23); India, France inked \$ 3.5 bn Scorpene deal (Oct. 6).
- ◆ **2006** : US President George Bush arrived on a three day visit (March 1); India, US inked nuclear deal (March 2).
- ◆ **2007** : The Taj Mahal has been voted as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World (July 7).
- ◆ **2008** : Abhinav Bindra won the Olympic Gold medal in Beijing for 10-metre air rifle event (August 11); Moon Mission Chandrayan I lifted off successfully into its initial orbit (Oct. 22).
- ◆ **2009** : Brahmos cruise missile successfully test-fired (March 4); Manmohan Singh took oath as PM for second term (May 22).
- ◆ **2010** : Rupee symbol '₹' cleared by Cabinet (July 15); XIX Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi (Oct. 3-14).
- ◆ **2011** : Results of Census 2011 released: Puts India's population at 1.21 billion (March 31); India won World Cup Cricket 2011 (April 2).
- ◆ **2012** : India became 6th nation to have a nuclear submarine (Jan. 23); Pranab Mukherjee Sworn in as new President (July 25).
- ◆ **2013** : Afzal Guru is hanged in Tihar Jail (Feb. 9); India successfully tests world's first underwater Supersonic Cruise missile (March 20).
- ◆ **2014** : Narendra Modi takes oath as India's 15th PM (May 26); Mangalyaan makes history as India first to orbit Mars in maiden attempt (Sept. 24).
- ◆ **2015** : NITI Aayog replaced Planning Commission with PM its Head (Jan. 1); India signs nuke MoU with Japan (Dec. 12).
- ◆ **2016** : PM inaugurates 'Make in India' centre in Mumbai (Feb. 13);

Modi's surgical hit on black money; ₹ 500, ₹ 1,000 notes withdrawn (Nov. 8); Ex-home secy.

- ◆ **2017:** Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held in Bengaluru (Jan. 7-9); Ram Nath Kovind Sworn in as 14th President (July 25); M. Venkaiah Naidu Sworn in as 13th Vice President of India (August 11).
- ◆ **2018:** ISRO successfully launches navigation satellite IRNSS-1I (April 12); J&K under Governor rule (June 20); Ranjan Gogoi takes Oath as 46th CJI (Oct. 3).
- ◆ **2019:** India bombs Jaish Camp in Pakistan's Balakot (Feb., 26); Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister for a second term (May 30); Moon Mission Chandrayan-2 lifted of successfully into its Orbit (July 22); Art. 370 scrapped, J&K loses its special status (Aug. 5); LS passes historic Bill on 2 new UTs in J&K (Aug. 6).
- ◆ **2020:** Gen. Bipin Rawat became India's first CDS (Jan. 1). Citizenship Amendment Act Comes into practice (Jan. 10); Union Budget 2020-21 presented in Lok Sabha by FM Nirmala Sitharaman. (Feb. 1); Arvind Kejriwal took oath as the CM of Delhi for a third term (Feb. 16); National Sports Awards 2020

Announced, Rohit Sharma, Mariyappan T, Manik Batra, Vinesh Phogat and Rani Rampal bag the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (Aug. 21); Former President Pranab Mukherjee passes away (Aug. 31); ISRO Successfully Launched Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 (Nov. 07); M.S. Dhoni gets ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade-2020 (Dec. 28).

- ◆ **2021:** India launches 40th Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica from Mormugao Port, Goa (Jan. 5); Govt. of India, West Bengal and World Bank sign USD 105 million project to improve waterways in West Bengal (Jan. 5); Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2021 convention held (Jan. 9); India launches world's largest COVID-19 Vaccination Drive (Jan. 16); Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Presented the Union Budget 2021-22 in Parliament (Feb. 1); Manasa Varanasi wins Femina Miss India 2020 crown (Feb. 10); EC declares dates for Assembly Elections in Assam, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Puducherry (Feb. 26); 67th National Film Awards announced, Marakkar Arabikalinte Simham (Malayalam) gets best film award (March 22).





ABBREVIATIONS

A

AAI	Airport Authority of India
AAAS	American Association of Advancement of Science
ABC	Atomic, Biological and Chemical (Warfare)
ABM	Anti-Ballistic Missile
ACC	Auxiliary Cadet Corpse
ACD	Asian Co-operation Dialogue
AD	Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
AFSPA	Armed Forces Special Power Act
AICC	All India Congress Committee
AI	Air India, Artificial Intelligence
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIMA	All India Management Association
AIML	All India Muslim League
AIMO	All India Manufacturer's Organisation
AIIMS	All India Institute of Medical Sciences
AITUC	All India Trade Union Congress
AMP	Auto Mission Plan
APPLE	Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment
ASEAN	Association for South East Asian Nations

ASI	Archaeological Survey of India
ASLV	Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle
ATM	Automated Teller Machine

B

BA	Bachelor of Arts, British Academy
BARC	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BC	Before Christ
BCCI	Board of Control for Cricket in India
BHEL	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
BIFR	Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction
BOP	Balance of Payments
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
BRAI	Broadcast Regulatory Authority of India
BSF	Border Security Force
BSNL	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

C

CA	Chartered Accountant
CAC	Consumer Access Codes
CBI	Central Bureau of Investigation
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
CBDT	Central Board of Direct Taxes
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Axis
CDRI	Central Drug Research Institute
CDS	Compulsory Deposit Scheme

CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CIBIL	Credit Informations Bureau of India Limited
CISF	Central Industrial Security Force
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CMAG	Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group
COCA	Control of Organised Crime Act
COD	Central Ordinance Depot
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
CPI/M	Communist Party of India/ Marxist
CRPF	Central Reserve Police Force
CRR	Cash Reserve Ratio
CSIR	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
CVC	Central Vigilance Commission

D

DAVP	Directorate of Audio-visual Publicity
DENG	Digital Electronic News Gathering
DGCA	Director General of Civil Aviation
DIG	Deputy Inspector General
DMK	Dravida Munnetra Kazagham
DNA	Deoxy-ribo Nucleic Acid
DOD	Department of Ocean Development
DRDO	Defence Research Development Organisation
DSIDC	Defence Scientific Information and Documentation

E

EAS	East Asia Summit
ECA	Economic Co-operation Administration
ECG	Electro Cardiogram
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organisation
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
EEC	European Economic Commission

EMS	European Monetary System
E&OE	Errors and Omissions Excepted
ESI	Employees State Insurance
ESRO	European Space Research Organisation

F

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FERA	Foreign Exchange Regulation Act
FERB	Foreign Exchange Regulatory Board
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

G

GAIL	Gas Authority of India Limited
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time
GNP	Gross National Product
GPRS	General Packet Radio Service
GSLV	Geo-Satellite Launch Vehicle
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
GST	Goods and Services Tax

H

HAL	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
HDC	Hill Development Council
HEC	Heavy Engineering Corporation
HMT	Hindustan Machine Tools

I

IAA	International Airports Authority
IA	Indian Airlines
IAF	Indian Air Force
IARI	Indian Agricultural Research Institute
IAS	Indian Administrative Service
IAAS	Indian Audit and Accounts Service
IATA	International Air Transport Association

IBM	International Business Machines
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICC	International Cricket Council
ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
ICICI	Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
ICS	Indian Civil Service
ICWA	Indian Council of World Affairs
IDA	International Development Agency
IDBI	Industrial Development Bank of India
IFFI	International Film Festival of India
IFS	Indian Foreign Service
IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTERPOL	International Police Organisation
IOC	Indian Oil Corporation
IPC	Indian Penal Code
IPL	Indian Premier League
ISD	International Subscriber Dialling
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organisation
ISI	Indian Standard Institution
IST	Indian Standard Time
ITI	Indian Telephone Industries; Industrial Training Institute
ITO	International Trade Organisation
ITU	International Tele-communication Union
ITUC	Indian Trade Union Congress

J

JCO	Junior Commissioned Officer
JMM	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha
JPC	Joint Parliamentary Committee

K

KMT	Kuomintang (Nationalist Party of Taiwan)
KANU	Kenya African National Union

L

LASER	Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
LCA	Light Combat Aircraft
LIC	Life Insurance Corporation
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas

M

MBA	Master of Business Administration
MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery
MCC	Maosits Communist Centre
MI	Military Intelligence
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MNC	Multi-National Company
MPLS	Multi Protocol Label Switching
MODVAT	Modified Value Added Tax

N

NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (USA)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NCC	National Cadet Corpse
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
NDA	National Defence Academy
NHAI	National Highway Authority of India
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission

NMD National Missile Defence

O

OCS Overseas Communication Service

OECD Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development

OLTAS On Line Tax Accounting System

OPEC Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

P

PA Personal Assistant, Press Association

PAN Permanent Account Number

PERDA Pension Fund Regulatory & Development

PIO Persons of Indian Origin

POTA Prevention of Terrorism Act

Q

QMG Quarter Master General

QMT Quantitative Management Technique

R

RADAR Radio Detecting and Ranging

RAF Rapid Action Force

RAW Research & Analysis Wing

RBI Reserve Bank of India

RCC Reinforced Cement Concrete

RSP Rourkela Steel Plant

S

SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

SAHR South Asian for Human Rights

SALT Strategic Arms Limitations Talks

SC Supreme Court, Scheduled Caste

SCRA Special Class Railway Apprentices

SEBI Securities and Exchange Board of India

SEZ Special Economic Zone

SHO Station House Officer

SIM Subscriber Identification Module

T

TAR Trans Asian Railways

TISCO Tata Iron and Steel Company

TMO Telegraphic Money Order

TRAI Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

U

UTI Unit Trust of India

UNESCO United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

V

VAT Value Added Tax

VCS VAT Council of States

VDIS Voluntary Disclosure Income Scheme

VHP Vishwa Hindu Parishad

VIP Very Important Person

VPP Value Payable Post

W

WEF World Environment Forum

WEF With Effect From

WHO World Health Organisation

WFP World Food Programme

WWF World Wild-Life Fund

WTO World Trade Organisation

Z

ZETA Zero Energy Thermal-nuclear Assembly or Apparatus

ZIP Zonal Improvement Plan

ZPG Zero Population Growth



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

FOREIGN

Book	Author	Book	Author
Aesop's Fables	Aesop	Lajja	Taslina Nasreen
Adventures of Sherlok Holmes	Arthur Conan Doyle	Les Miserable	Victor Hugo
Alice in Wonderland	Lewis Carrol	Leviathan	Thomas Hobbes
Arabian Nights	Sir Richard Burton	Lolita	V. Nobokov
A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	Mein Kampf	Adolf Hitler
A Tale of Two Gardens	Octavio Paz	Merchant of Venice	William Shakespeare
August Coup	Lapierre	Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie
Ben Hur	Mikhail S. Gorbachev	Moor's Last Sigh	Salman Rushdie
Candida	Lewis Wallace	Mother India	Katherine Mayo
Communist Manifesto	G.B. Shaw	Nana	Emile Zola
Das Kapital	Karl Marx	Nineteen Eighty Four	George Orwell
Doctor's Dilemma	Karl Marx	Odyssey	Homer
Don Quixote	G.B. Shaw	Origin of Species	Charles Darwin
Famished Road	Cervantes	Othello	William Shakespeare
Freedom From Fear	Ben Okri	Paradise Regained	John Milton
Good Earth	Aung San Suu Kyi	Path to Power	Margaret Thatcher
Gulliver's Travels	Pearl S. Buck	Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen
Hamlet	Jonathan Swift	Razor's Edge	Somerset Maugham
Iliad	William Shakespeare	Republic	Plato
Inferno	Homer	Rubaiyat-i-Omar Khayyam	Edward Fitzgerald (Translator)
Ivanhoe	A. Dante	The Old Man and the Sea	Ernest Hemingway
Julius Caesar	Walter Scott	The Satanic Verses	Salman Rushdie
	William Shakespeare		

Book	Author
The Social Contract	Rousseau
The Tempest	William Shakespeare
Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain
Twelfth Night	William Shakespeare

Book	Author
Uncle Tom's Cabin	H.B.Stowe
Unto This Last	John Ruskin
Utopia	Thomas More
Vicar of Wakefield	Oliver Goldsmith
War and Peace	Leo Tolstoy
Wonder That Was India	A.L. Basham

INDIAN

Book	Author
Ain-i-Akbari	Abul Fazal
Anand Math	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
Arthashastra	Kautilya
Bhagwat Gita	Ved Vyas
Chidambara	Sumitranandan Pant
Curtain Raisers	Natwar Singh
Devdas	Sarat Chandra Chatterjee
Discovery of India	Jawaharlal Nehru
Essays on Gita	Aurobindo Ghosh
Eternal India	Indira Gandhi
Faces of Everest	Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia
Geetanjali	Rabindra Nath Tagore
Glimpses of World History	Jawaharlal Nehru
Godaan	Prem Chand
Gora	Rabindranath Tagore
Gul-e-Nagma	Firaq Gorakhpuri
Harsh Charita	Bana Bhatta
Hindu View of Life	S. Radhakrishnan
Idols	Sunil Gavaskar
India Divided	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
The Judgement	Kuldip Nayyar

Book	Author
Juhi ki Kali	Surya Kant Tripathi 'Nirala'
Kadambari	Bana Bhatta
Kamayani	Jai Shankar Prasad
Kumar Sambhav	Kalidas
Mahabharata	Ved Vyas
Manvini Bhavai	Pannalal Patel
Meghdoot	Kalidas
Meri Ekyavan Kavitaen	Atal Behari Vajpayee
Mudrarakshasa	Vishakhadatta
My Experiments with Truth	M.K. Gandhi
My Presidential Years	R. Venkataraman
Naivedyam	Balamani Amma
One Day Wonders	Sunil Gavaskar
Panchtantra	Vishnu Sharma
Ramayana	Balmiki
Ramcharit Manas	Tulsidas
Satyarth Prakash	Swami Dayanand
Sur Sagar	Surdas
The Guide	R.K. Narayan
The Post Office— <i>Dak Ghar</i>	Rabindra Nath Tagore
The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy
Urvashi	Ram Dhari Singh 'Dinkar'
Yama	Mahadevi Verma



COMPUTER AWARENESS

■ INTRODUCTION

This is the era of information technology. We are bound to witness a computer revolution in which information processing and retrieval are being done reliably at incredible speeds. Today, computers are to be found in every walk of life. This miraculous device can even be found in children's toys, word processors, pocket calculators, industrial robots, home appliances etc., to mention a few of their innumerable uses; and there is practically no new machine, instrument, control equipment or information system that does not have a microprocessor in it. Computers are no longer just tools for industry or commerce. Now these are available for use at home also and at low costs.

■ THE NEW GENERATION

Computer has already entered its Fifth Generation. The first four generations of computers being based on the technology of the age to which they belonged.

■ ELECTRONIC BRAINS

The modern computers are capable of such fantastic feats that these have often been termed as electronic brains, but these cannot be called intelligent in the human sense. Their 'brains' are not capable of thinking like a human brain. In fact, these sophisticated machines can only do what they are commanded to.

■ THE DIGITAL COMPUTER

Most common among the computers, the digital computers, are universal in the sense that these have applications not only in the scientific field but also in the fields of business and administration. In fact, due to their flexibility and accuracy, today, the digital computers dominate the scene. The latest of these computers are called microcomputers which are handy and user-friendly.

■ BACKGROUND

If we look for the origin of the most revolutionary invention of the modern

age, known as Computer, then we would have to go back to 17th century. Interestingly, the origins of the mechanical digital calculators can be traced to the mathematicians Blaise Pascal (1623-62) and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz (1646-1716). Charles Babbage (1792-1871) was the first to think of a machine to produce and store the tables of logarithms invented by John Napier (1550-1617). First, he designed a difference engine and later, an analytical engine, an all-purpose calculating machine. But, despite his best efforts, the usage of all his resources and a substantial British Government subsidy, success eluded him.

■ TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

The origins of the present technological revolution can be traced to the 1930s. The thermionic valve discovered in 1904, was found to be useful as an accounting device by Wynn Williams in 1931. The Harvard mark 1 Computer designed by Howard Aikenis was the world's first digital computer which made usage of electro-mechanical devices. It was developed jointly by the International Business Machines (IBM) and the Harvard University in 1944.

■ THE FIRST COMPUTER

In February 1946, the world's first all-electronic digital computer, called ENIAC, the Electronic Numerical Integrator And Calculator, was formally

dedicated. This was the first generation computer based on vacuum tube technology. In June 1945, John Von Neumann, an outstanding mathematician and logician, prepared the "First draft of a Report on the EDVAC" (Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer). The Von Neumann design was based on a single Central Processor Unit (CPU) performing sequential operations on an ordered sequence of instructions, called a programme, to produce the desired result.

■ OPERATION

Number Crunching : Earlier, calculating the payroll of a large company required millions of arithmetical calculations, but today, it can be done by a central computer because manipulating numbers—number crunching—is what a computer does in a best manner.

Data Processing : As a data processor, the computer demonstrates another strength. Professionals feed the information (data) into it in the form of figures. This is called data processing.

Binary System : Zeros and ones, in their endless combinations constitute binary system on which computer operation is based. A scheme of numeration with the base ten requires ten symbols or ciphers (including zero), whereas an arithmetic with the base two requires only two ciphers: 0 and 1. Under the binary system all ordinary arithmetical operations are reduced to their simplest form.

■ HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

A computer system is generally considered to be made of two parts—the hardware and the software. The hardware consists of the physical parts of the machine. The software consists of the information and the instructions given to the computer that enable it to operate. The information is called data and the set of instructions is called program.

■ PROGRAMMING

Programming is the name given to the 'art' of writing a program. Every machine, depending upon its internal hardware architecture, has a unique low level language called the machine language. In a binary-coded digital computer, the machine language is made up of 0s and 1s. Assembly Language uses mnemonics for machine language. To relieve the programmer from the agony of writing a program in the difficult low-level machine language, several hundreds of easier, high-level programming languages have been developed. High level languages are comprehensible representations of machine code using mnemonics in Assembly Language.

Languages : Computer programming languages are often distinguished as being either compiled or interpreted languages. The user's program in the high-level programming language is

called the source code. The manufacturer of the Computer supplies the required software, either a compiler or an interpreter, for every user language implemented on it. The compiler translates the source code into a machine language program called the object code.

■ DIFFERENT COMPUTERS

Today computers can be classified as Mainframe Computers, Minicomputers and Microcomputers. Mainframe Computers are expensive and large with centralised computing facilities where a Super Computer or a large computer is connected to several terminals. A multi-user mainframe computer has a large memory and is capable of speeds of the order of several millions of floating-point operations per second. Minicomputers are also multi-user computers having lesser memory and operate at slower speeds.

Personal Computers : Microcomputers are often called Personal Computers or PCs since they were originally intended to be single user devices either at the office or at home.

■ DESK TOP SYSTEM

The fourth generation micro computer like the IBM-PC is a small desktop system with two floppy disk drives. It employs a microprocessor and has a RAM, five expansion slots and functions under the Operating System called MS-DOS.

The Floppy Disk : The most widely accepted form of auxiliary storage used in microcomputers is the floppy disk storage. A floppy diskette is a round vinyl disk enclosed within a plastic cover.

Hard Disk : The Winchester or hard disk drives can store much more data than what can be stored on a floppy diskette. Hard disks come sealed and they cannot be removed or changed like floppy diskettes.

THE OPERATING SYSTEM

The Operating System of a computer is a group of programs that manages or oversees all the operations of the computer such as CPU, Memory, Keyboard, Floppy Diskette, VDU etc. The operating system is responsible primarily for managing the files on the disk and the communication between the computer and its peripherals. When power is supplied to the microcomputer, the operating system is first loaded (before the user program is entered) and this process is called booting.

Commands : All operating systems have inbuilt commands and small programs residing on disk which, when run, behave like commands.

The Printer : The printer usually used along with a microcomputer is a dot matrix printer, wherein a 9 pin (vertical) head creates matrix pattern to form the characters. However,

nowadays, laser printers are more in vogue. A Laser (LASER : Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) is a device that harnesses light to produce an intense beam of radiation of a very pure and single colour.

■ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Today, computers are playing an ever-increasing role in the process of improving the flow of information between people and machines. This is a field which is now known as information technology (IT).

Network : A network is the means by which computers share and exchange information and resources across either short distances (LAN : Local Area Networks) or globally (WAN : Wide Area Networks). Today, the networking system is helpful in making better use of business resources, enhancing productivity and efficiency, reducing cost and gaining competitive advantage.

The Present Scenario : Internet and IT are dominating the world today. Till the end of 2020, there were 4.66 billion Internet connections around the globe. Internet is used for sending and receiving E-mails, conducting E-commerce activities, hosting information on websites, downloading information from websites and entertainment. There are nearly 3,000 search engines on Internet today.