

## STUDENT'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



# STUDENT'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

The Best Reference Book for Students, Teachers and Parents.

#### AZEEM AHMAD KHAN

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#### **Preface**

Student's Encyclopedia of General Knowledge provides the best of GK to its readers. This handy volume is a

useful source of information and reference, particularly for students of classes III to VIII. It is the best reference work in a single volume for GK teachers and parents who regularly need to check facts & figures.

Student's Encyclopedia of General

*Knowledge* is a book like no other.

Completely up-to-date, it brings a wealth of information to the whole class. The alphabetical order of entries in each chapter and clear design make the book an outstanding reference work, while the lavish and spectacular illustrations ensure that it is always a pleasure to use. Every piece of information is authentic —culled together from several areas of knowledge ranging from encyclopedias, fact books, year books, official government releases, internet and other

accuracy.

This book is full of features that aim to provide useful data in an easily

accessible format. The contents cover a

reliable sources—and verified

wide range of subjects including language & literature, sports & culture, people & places, history & geography, science & technology, mythology & current affairs, etc. 'Believe It or Not' boxes contain interesting and amazing facts. Quiz, given at the end, is an exciting way to test your knowledge. It contains 200 important questions based on the contents of the book. A comprehensive index helps to find out a topic quickly.

Encyclopedia of General Knowledge is truly a book like no other, kindly recommend it to your students along with

Once you are convinced that *Student's* 

their school curriculum. It would help them to broaden their field of knowledge.

This book will be undated and revised

This book will be updated and revised annually, and published every year in a new edition. We would welcome responses from students, teachers and parents about how useful they found the

parents about how useful they found the book, and any suggestions they might have towards its improvement. You can keep in touch with the editors directly.

E-mail them at generalpressindia@gmail.com. Looking

forward for your comments and suggestions.

#### —Publishers



Albert Einstein

1.

## Common Abbreviations

An abbreviation is a short form of a word or a group of words. They are

commonly used because they save time and space. Here are some common abbreviations: **AD** — Anno Domini (in the year of Our

**AIDS** — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome **AIIMS** — All India Institute of Medical

Sciences AIR — All India Radio

**a.m.** — ante meridiem (before noon)

**AMU** — Aligarh Muslim University

**AP** — Associated Press **ATM** — Automated Teller Machine

**B&W** — Black and White

Lord)

**BA** — Bachelor of Arts

**B** B C — British Broadcasting Corporation **BC** — Before Christ **BEd.** — Bachelor of Education **BP** — Blood Pressure **BSc.** — Bachelor of Science **BSF** — Border Security Force **BSNL**— Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited CA — Chartered Accountant **CBI** — Central Bureau of Investigation CBSE — Central Board of Secondary Education **CBT** — Children's Book Trust **CFL** — Compact Fluorescent Lamp

CIA— Central Intelligence Agency (USA) C I D— Criminal Investigation Department **CNN** — Cable News Network **CTBT**— Comprehensive Test Ban **Treaty DIG** — Deputy Inspector General **DNA** — Deoxyribonucleic Acid **DOS** — Disk Operating System **DTP** — Desk-top Publishing **DVD** — Digital Versatile Disc **E & O E** — Errors and Omissions

Exempted

ECG — Electrocardiogram

e.g. — exempli gratia (for example)

**EMI** — Equated Monthly Installments etc. — et cetera (and other things) **FBI** — Federal Bureau of Investigation FIFA — Federation International de Football Association (Federation of the International Football Association) **FIR** — First Information Report **FM** — Frequency Modulation **GMT** — Greenwich Mean Time **Govt.** — Government **GPO** — General Post Office

**HIV** — Human Immunodeficiency Virus

**HQ** — Headquarters **IA** — Indian Airlines

IAS — Indian Administrative Service
IBM — International Business Machines
ICU — Intensive Care Unit
i.e. — id est (that is)
IGNOU — Indira Gandhi National

**IAF** — Indian Air Force

Open University

IIT — Indian Institute of Technology

INA — Indian National Army

INTERPOL — International Criminal Police Commission

IPS — Indian Police Service

IO — Intelligence Operiors

IQ — Intelligence Quotient

ISBN — International Standard Book
Number

**ISD** — International Subscriber Dialling **ISI** — Indian Standards Institution/Inter-Services Intelligence (Pakistan) **IST** — Indian Standard Time ISRO — Indian Space Research Organization **ITI** — Industrial Training Institute ITO Income Tax Officer/International Trade Organization **lbw** — leg before wicket **LCD** — Liquid-crystal Display **LIC** — Life Insurance Corporation **LLB** — Bachelor of Laws **LPG** — Liquefied Petroleum Gas Ltd. — Limited

**LTTE** — Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam MA — Master of Arts **MBA** — Master of Business Administration **MBBS** — Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery **MLA** — Member of Legislative Assembly **MNC** — Multinational Corporation **MO** — Money Order **MP** — Member of Parliament Mr. — Mister

Mr. — Mister

Mrs. — Missus/Missis

MSc. — Master of Science

MTNL — Mahanagar Telephone Nigam

Limited NASA — National Aeronautics and Space Administration (USA) NATO — North Atlantic Treaty Organization **NB** — nota bene (note well) **NBT** — National Book Trust NCC — National Cadet Corps NCERT — National Council of **Educational Research and Training NDA** — National Defence Academy **NFDC** — National Film Development Corporation **NIIT** — National Institute of Information Technology

NRI — Non-resident Indian

**OK**— Okay (all correct) **OPD** — Outdoor Patients Department **PC** — Personal Computer **Ph.D** — Doctor of Philosophy **PIB** — Press Information Bureau **PIN** — Postal Index Number/Personal Identification Number **p.m.** — post meridiem (after noon) **PM** — Prime Minister **PNB** — Punjab National Bank **PO** — Post Office **PTI** — Press Trust of India **PTO** — Please Turn Over Pvt. — Private

**R&D** — Research and Development

**RBI** — Reserve Bank of India **RSVP** — repondez sil vous plait (please reply) **SAARC** — South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation SAIL — Steel Authority of India Limited **SBI** — State Bank of India SC — Supreme Court/Schedule Caste Sign. — Signature SIM — Subscriber Identification Module (Card) **SLV** — Satellite Launch Vehicle **SMS** — Short Message Service **SOS** — Save Our Souls

**STD** — Subscriber Trunk Dialling

**TTE** — Train Ticket Examiner **UFO** — Unidentified Flying Object UNESCO — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization **UNI** — United News of India **UNICEF** — United Nations Children's Fund **UNO** — United Nations Organization **UPSC** — Union Public Service Commission via — by way of

via — by way of
VIP — Very Important Person
viz. — videlicet (namely)

VPP — Value Payable Post
vs. — versus (against)

WWF — Worldwide Fund for Naturewww — worldwide web

**WHO** — World Health Organization

Xmas — ChristmasYMCA — Young Men's Christian

Association

YWCA — Young Women's Christian

Association Association

2.

#### Famous Books (India)

Name of the book	Author
A Suitable Roy	Vikram Seth Abul Fazal

Anand Math	Bankim Chandra
Arthashastra	Chatterji
Babarnama	Kautilya
Bhagavadgita	Babar
Broken Wing	Ved Vyas
Devdas	Sarojini Naidu
Dewan-e-Ghalib	Sharat Chandra
Discovery of India	Chatterji
Gitanjali	Mirza Ghalib
Glimpses of World	Jawaharlal Nehru
History	Rabindranath
Godan	Tagore
Golden Gate	Jawaharlal Nehru
	Premchand
Gora	Vikram Seth
3014	

Guide	Rabindranath
Guru Granth Sahib	Tagore
India Divided	R.K. Narayan
India Wins	Guru Arjun Dev
Freedom	Dr. Rajendra
Mahabharata	Prasad
Man-eaters of	Maulana Abul
Kumaon	Kalam Azad
Meghdoot	Ved Vyas
Midnight's	Jim Corbett
Children	Kalidas
My Experiments	Salman Rushdie
with Truth	Mahatma Gandhi
My Truth	Indira Gandhi
Panchatantra	Vishnu Sharma
Ram Charit Manas	

Tulsidas Ramayana Rangbhoomi Valmiki Satanic Verses Premchand Shakuntala Salman Rushdie Song of India Kalidas Sarojini Naidu Sunny Days The God of Small Sunil Gavaskar Things Arundhati Roy





Premchand

## Famous Books (World)

Name of the book	Author
	E.M. Forster

A Passage to India	Charles Dickens
A Tale of Two Cities	Sir Arthur
Adventures of	Conan Doyle
Sherlock Holmes	Lewis Carroll
Alice in Wonderland	George Orwell
Animal Farm	Sir Richard
Arabian Nights	Burton
Arms and the Man	George Bernard
Around the World in	Shaw
Eighty Days	Jules Verne
As You Like It	William
Das Kapital	Shakespeare
David Copperfield	Karl Marx
Dr. Zhivago	Charles Dickens
Great Expectations	Boris Pasternak
Steat Experiments	Charles Dickens

Gulliver's Travels	Jonathan Swift
Hamlet	William Shakespeare J.K. Rowling Homer
Harry Potter Series Iliad Julius Caesar Jungle Book Jurassic Park Man and Superman	William Shakespeare Rudyard Kipling Michael Crichton George Bernard Shaw
Odyssey Oliver Twist Origin of Species Paradise Lost	Homer Charles Dickens Charles Darwin John Milton

Principia	Sir Isaac
Republic	Newton
Robinson Crusoe	Plato
Romeo and Juliet	Daniel Defoe
Three Musketeers	William
Through the Looking-	Shakespeare
Glass	Alexander
Treasure Island	Dumas
Uncle Tom's Cabin	Lewis Carroll
War and Peace	R.L. Stevenson
	H.B. Stowe
	Count Leo
	Tolstoy



William Shakespeare

### Hello India

#### NATIONAL SYMBOLS

#### **National Flag**

Our National Flag is a tricolour with deep saffron at the top, white in the centre of the white band is a navy blue wheel known as *Ashok Chakra*. It has 24 spokes.

Each colour of the flag has its own

middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. The ratio of the width of the flag to its length is 2:3. In the

significance:

Saffron — signifies courage and

sacrifice

White — signifies truth and peace

Green — signifies faith and prosperity
The wheel is a symbol of progress round the clock.

#### National Emblem

to back, mounted on a base. However only three lions are visible, the fourth one remains hidden from the front view. There is a *Dharam Chakra* in the centre of the base, on the right of which is a figure of a bull and on the left that of a horse. The words Satyamev Jayate (Truth Alone Triumphs) are inscribed below the base. **National Anthem** Jana-gana-mana is our National

Anthem. It was composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore. The

Our National Emblem is a Lion Capital, adopted from the Ashoka's Pillar at Sarnath. It has four lions, standing back playing time of our National Anthem is about 52 seconds.

### National Song

Vande Mataram is our National Song. It was composed originally in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterji. It has been taken from his novel *Anand Math*.

#### National Calendar

Saka is our National Calendar. Chaitra is the first month and Phalguna is the last month of the Saka year. A normal Saka year has 365 days.

#### National Flower

Lotus is our National Flower. It is a sacred flower and occupies a unique position in the art and mythology of ancient India.



#### **National Bird**

Peacock is our National Bird. It was declared the National Bird in 1964 and its hunting has since been banned.



#### **National Animal**

Tiger is our National Animal. It is a symbol of grace, strength, agility and enormous power. To check the dwindling population of tigers in India, 'Project Tiger' was launched in April 1973.



#### **National Game**

Hockey is our National Game. India has won 8 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze medals in Olympics.

#### OTHER FACTS

India is the seventh largest and the second most populous country in the world. Here are some important facts about India:

Official name — Republic of India Local names — Bharat, Hindustan Area — 32,87,263 sq. km Population — 1,24,14,91,960 Capital — New Delhi Currency — Rupee Timezone — GMT+5.5 Location on world map — Southern Asia Official languages — Hindi and **English** Number of states — 28 Number of union territories — 7 Largest state — Rajasthan

Smallest state — Goa

Most populous state — Uttar Pradesh
Least populous state — Sikkim
Most densely populated state — West

Bengal
Most densely populated city — New

Delhi

## **Presidents of India**

Name	Life span	Tenure
1. Dr. Rajendra	(1884–	26 Jan. 1950

Prasad	1963)	1962
2. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	(1888– 1975)	13 May 1962 —13 May 1967
3. Dr. Zakir Husain	(1897– 1969)	13 May 1967 —3 May 1969
4. Varahagiri Venkatagiri	(1894– 1980)	24 Aug. 1969 —24 Aug. 1974
5. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad	(1905– 1977)	24 Aug. 1974 —11 Feb. 1977
6. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	`	25 July 1977 —25 July 1982

7. Giani Zail Singh	(1916– 1994)	25 July 1982 —25 July 1987
8. R. Venkataraman	(1910– 2009)	25 July 1987 —25 July 1992
9. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma		25 July 1992 —25 July 1997
10. K.R. Narayanan	(1920– 2005)	25 July 1997 —25 July 2002
11. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	(b 1931)	25 July 2002 —25 July 2007
		25 July 2007

12. Pratibha Devisingh Patil	`	—25 July 2012
13. Pranab Mukherjee	(b 1935)	25 July 2012 —till date
Acting President	s of Ind	ia:
Name	Life span	Tenure
1. Varahagiri Venkatagiri	(1894– 1980)	3 May 1969 —20 July 1969
2. Justice Muhammad Hidayatullah	(1905– 1992)	20 July 1969 —24 Aug.1969
	1	1

## 3. B.D. Jatti

## tti (1913–11 Feb. 1977) 2002) —25 July 1977



## Prime Ministers of India

Name	Life	Tenure
Name	span	Tenure

1. Jawaharlal Nehru	`	15 Aug. 1947 — 27 May 1964
2. Lal Bahadur Shastri	(1904– 1966)	9 June 1964 — 11 Jan. 1966
3. Indira	(1917–	24 Jan. 1966 —
Gandhi	1984)	24 March 1977
4. Morarji	(1896–	24 March 1977
Desai	1995)	— 28 July 1979
5. Choudhary	(1902–	28 July 1979 —
Charan Singh	1987)	14 Jan 1980
6. Indira Gandhi	`	14 Jan. 1980 — 31 Oct. 1984
7. Rajiv	(1944–	31 Oct. 1984 —
Gandhi	1991)	1 Dec. 1989

8. Vishwanath Pratap Singh	`	2 Dec. 1989 — 10 Nov. 1990
9. Chandra Shekhar	`	10 Nov. 1990 — 21 June 1991
10. P. V. Narasimha Rao	`	21 June 1991 — 16 May 1996
11. Atal Bihari Vajpayee	(b 1926)	16 May 1996 — 28 May 1996
12. H.D. Deve Gowda	(b 1933)	1 June 1996 — 21 April 1997
13. Inder Kumar Gujral	(b 1919)	21 April 1997 — 28 Nov. 1997
14. Atal Bihari	(b	19 March 1998

Vajpayee	1926)	— 17 April 1999
15. Atal Bihari Vajpayee	(b 1926)	13 Oct. 1999 — 22 May 2004
16. Dr. Manmohan Singh	(b 1932)	22 May 2004 — 22 May 2009
17. Dr. Manmohan Singh	(b 1932)	22 May 2009 — 26 May 2014
18. Narendra Modi	(b 1950)	26 May 2014 — till date



Jawaharlal Nehru



Lal Bahadur Shastri



Indira Gandhi



Rajiv Gandhi



Atal Bihari Vajpayee



Dr. Manmohan Singh

# Indian States and their Capitals

State	Capital
Andhra	

Pradesh	
Arunachal	Hyderabad
Pradesh	Itanagar
Assam	Dispur
Bihar	Patna
Chhattisgarh	Raipur
Goa	Panaji
Gujarat	Gandhinagar
Haryana	Chandigarh
Himachal	Shimla
Pradesh	Jammu (winter) and
Jammu and	Srinagar (summer)
Kashmir	Ranchi
Jharkhand	Bengaluru
Karnataka	Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala	Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh	
Maharashtra Manipur Meghalaya Mizoram Nagaland Orissa	Mumbai Imphal Shillong Aizawl Kohima Bhubaneswar
Punjab Rajasthan Sikkim Tamil Nadu Telangana Tripura Uttar Pradesh	Chandigarh Jaipur Gangtok Chennai Hyderabad Agartala Lucknow

D. P. . . . . M. . . . N. . . .

#### **Believe It or Not:**

Uttarakhand Dehradun West Bengal Kolkata

 India and China together account for more than one-third of the world's population.

# Indian States and their Languages

State	Principal language(s)
Andhra	

	Telugu and Urdu Several tribal dialects Assamese Hindi and Bhojpuri Hindi Konkani and Marathi Gujarati Hindi Hindi and Pahari Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri and Ladakhi Hindi and Phojpuri
Jharkhand	Kannada
Karnataka Kerala	Malayalam Hindi

Madhya Pradesh	
Tradesii	Hindi and Marathi
Maharashtra	Manipuri
Manipur	Khasi, Garo and English
Meghalaya	Mizo and English
Mizoram	Several tribal dialects
Nagaland	Oriya
Orissa	Punjabi
Punjab	Hindi and Rajasthani
Rajasthan	Lepcha, Bhutia and
Sikkim	Nepali
Tamil Nadu	Tamil
Telangana	Telugu
Tripura	Bengali and Kokborak

West Bengal Kumaoni Bengali

Hindi, Garhwali

and

Uttar Pradesh | Hindi and Urdu

#### **Believe It or Not:**

Uttarakhand

 In India, more languages are spoken than in any other country. Tamil is the oldest surviving language in the world.

## **Dances of India**

Dance in India has an unbroken tradition of over 2,000 years. Its themes are derived from mythology, legends and classical literature. The main classical,

folk and tribal dances of India are listed below alongwith the states they are associated with:

Dance	State
Bhangra	Punjab
Bharata Natyam	Tamil Nadu
Bihu	Assam
Garba	Gujarat
Kathak	North India
Kathakali	Kerala
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Manipuri	Manipur
Mohiniattam	Kerala
Odissi	Orissa



#### **Other Important Dances**

Bamboo dance Assam

Bidesia Bihar

Chau West Bengal

Ghumar Rajasthan

Gidda Punjab

Lavni Maharashtra

Nautanki Uttar Pradesh
Rouf Jammu and Kashmir
Swang Haryana
Tamasha Maharashtra
Yakshangana Karnataka

Madhya Pradesh

### **Believe It or Not:**

Lota

 A medium-sized swarm of locusts contains about a million insects and consumes about twenty tonnes of food a day. The swarm keeps on migrating and eats all plants, crops and vegetation found in its way.

# Countries and their Capitals

Country	Capital
Afghanistan	Kabul

Argentina	Buenos Aires
Australia	Canberra
Austria	Vienna
Bangladesh	Dhaka
Belgium	Brussels
Bhutan	Thimphu
Brazil	Brasilia
Bulgaria	Sofia
Canada	Ottawa
Chile	Santiago
China	Beijing
Colombia	Bogota
Cuba	Havana
Denmark	Copenhagen
Egypt	Cairo

Finland	Helsinki	
France	Paris	
Germany	Berlin	
Greece	Athens	
Hungary	Budapest	
India	New Delhi	
Indonesia	Jakarta	
Iran	Tehran	
Iraq	Baghdad	
Israel	Jerusalem	
Italy	Rome	
Japan	Tokyo	
Jordan	Amman	
Kenya	Nairobi	
Kuwait	Kuwait City	
1	<u> </u>	

Libya	Tripoli
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Mauritius	Port Louis
Mexico	Mexico City
Morocco	Rabat
Myanmar	Yangon
Nepal	Kathmandu
Nethezlandad	Amsterdam
Nigeria	Abuja
Norway	Oslo
Pakistan	Islamabad
Peru	Lima
Philippines	Manila
Poland	Warsaw
Portugal	Lisbon

Russia	Moscow
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh
South Africa	Pretoria & Cape Town
South Korea	Seoul
Spain	Madrid
Sri Lanka	Colombo
Sudan	Khartoum
Sweden	Stockholm
Switzerland	Bern
Thailand	Bangkok
Turkey	Ankara
UAE	Abu Dhabi
UK	London
USA	Washington, DC
Vietnam	Hanoi
	<u>                                     </u>



# Countries and their Currencies

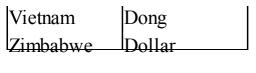
Country	Currency
Afghanistan	Afghani

Algeria	Dinar	
Argentina	Peso	
Australia	Dollar	
Austria	Euro	
Bangladesh	Taka	
Belgium	Euro	
Bhutan	Ngultrum	
Brazil	Cruzeiro Real	
Canada	Dollar	
Chile	Peso	
China	Yuan	
Colombia	Peso	
Cuba	Peso	
Denmark	Krone	
Egypt	Pound	

Finland	Euro	
France	Euro	
Germany	Euro	
Greece	Euro	
Hungary	Forint	
India	Rupee	
Indonesia	Rupiah	
Iran	Rial	
Iraq	Dinar	
Israel	Shekel	
Italy	Euro	
Japan	Yen	
Jordan	Dinar	
Kenya	Shilling	
Korea, North	Won	

Korea, South	Won	
Kuwait	Dinar	
Malaysia	Ringgit	
Mauritius	Rupee	
Mexico	Peso	
Morocco	Dirham	
Myanmar	Kyat	
Netherlands	Rupse	
New Zealand	Dollar	
Nigeria	Naira	
Norway	Krone	
Pakistan	Rupee	
Peru	Sol	
Philippines	Peso	
Portugal	Euro	

Russia	Rouble	
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	
Singapore	Dollar	
South Africa	Rand	
Spain	Euro	
Sri Lanka	Rupee	
Sudan	Dinar	
Sweden	Krona	
Switzerland	Franc	
Taiwan	Dollar	
Thailand	Baht	
Turkey	Lira	
UAE	Dirham	
UK	Pound Sterling	
USA	Dollar	



## Countries and their Natives

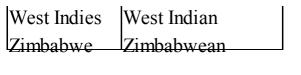
Country	Native
Afghanistan	Afghan/Afghani

Algeria	Algerian	
Argentina	Argentinian	
Australia	Australian	
Bangladesh	Bangladeshi	
Belgium	Belgian	
Bhutan	Bhutani/Bhutanese	
Brazil	Brazilian	
Britain	British	
Canada	Canadian	
Chile	Chilean	
China	Chinese	
Cuba	Cuban	
Denmark	Dane/Danish	
Egypt	Egyptian	
England	English	

Finland	Finn
France	French
Germany	German
Greece	Greek
Hungary	Hungarian
India	Indian
Indonesia	Indonesian
Iran	Iranian
Iraq	Iraqi
Ireland	Irish
Israel	Israeli
Italy	Italian
Japan	Japanese
Korea	Korean
Kuwait	Kuwaiti
	l l

Malaysia	Malay/Malayan	
Mauritius	Mauritian	
Mexico	Mexican	
Mongolia	Mongolian/Mongol	
Morocco	Moroccan/Moor	
Myanmar	Burman/Burmese	
Nepal	Nepalese	
Netherlands	Dutch	
Ontanay	Ontwegian	
Pakistan	Pakistani	
Peru	Peruvian	
Philippines	Philippine/Filipino	
Poland	Polish	
Portugal	Portuguese	
Russia	Russian	

Saudi Arabia	Arab	
Scotland	Scottish	
Singapore	Singaporean	
South Africa	South African	
Spain	Spanish/Spaniard	
Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan	
Sudan	Sudanese	
Sweden	Swedish/Swede	
Switzerland	Swiss	
Taiwan	Taiwanese	
Thailand	Thai	
Tibet	Tibetan	
Turkey	Turkish	
USA	American	
Vietnam	Vietnamese	



# Countries and their Languages

The world is full of languages. Not certain, but it is estimated that the

usually range between 5,000 and 7,000. Here are some countries of the world and their official languages:

languages spoken throughout the world

Country	Official language(s)
Argentina	Spanish
Australia	English
Bangladesh	Bengali
Brazil	Portuguese
Canada	English and French
China	Mandarin Chinese
Denmark	Danish
Egypt	Arabic
France	French

Germany	German
Greece	Greek
India	Hindi and English
Iran	Persian (Farsi)
Iraq	Arabic
Italy	Italian
Japan	Japanese
Korea	Korean
Mexico	Spanish
Nepal	Nepali
Netherlands	Dutch
Pakistan	Urdu
Poland	Polish
Russia	Russian
Saudi	Arabic

Arabia	Afrikaans and English		
South Africa	Spanish		
Spain	Sinhala,	Tamil	and
Sri Lanka	English		
Sweden	Swedish		
UK	English		
USA	English		
	<u> </u>		J

# Countries and their Religions

The Christianity is the major religion of the world followed by the Islam. Here are some countries of the world and their major religions: Country Major religion(s)

Christianity Australia lIslam Bangladesh

Christianity Buddhism

Christianity Confucianism, Buddhism

and Taoism Islam

Christianity

Christianity

Germany Greece India

Brazil

Cambodia

Canada

China

Egypt

France

Greek Orthodox

Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism,

Iran	Christianity, Buddhism			
Iraq	and Jainism			
Italy	Islam			
Japan	Islam			
Malaysia	Christianity			
Nepal	Shintoism and Buddhism			
Netherlands	Islam			
Pakistan	Hinduism			
Russia	Christianity			
Saudi	Islam			
Arabia	Christianity and Islam			
South	Islam			
Africa	Christianity			
Spain	Christianity			
Sri Lanka	Buddhism			

Sudan	Islam
Switzerland	Christianity
Thailand	Buddhism
UAE	Islam
UK	Christianity
USA	Christianity

### Continents and Countries

The Earth's surface is divided into seven continents, out of which six are

30% of the world's total land area, with 60% of the world's population. Australia is the smallest continent. Antarctica is covered by thick ice and the only people living there are some scientists. Here are the six inhabited continents and their major countries:

inhabited. Asia is the largest and the most populated continent. It occupies

### Asia

Afghanistan Bangladesh

Bhutan

China India

Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Japan
Korea
Kuwait
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Saudi Arabia

Singapore

Sri Lanka Taiwan Thailand Turkey UAE Vietnam Europe Austria Belgium Bulgaria Czech Republic Denmark Finland France

Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland

UK

### Africa

Algeria Cameroon

Egypt

Ethiopia

Kenya

Libya

Mauritius

Morocco Namibia

Nigeria

Rwanda Somalia

South Africa Sudan Tanzania Uganda Zambia **Zimbabwe** North America **Barbados** Canada Cuba

Jamaica Mexico Panama

USA

### South America

Argentina

Bolivia Brazil

Chile

Colombia Paraguay

Peru

Venezuela

### Australia

Fiji

Australia

New Zealand

# **Changed Names of Some Places**

India	
New name	Old name

Allahabad	Prayag	
Bengaluru	Bangalore	
Chennai	Madras	
Guwahati	Gauhati	
Karnataka	Mysore	
Kolkata	Calcutta	
Kozhikode	Calicut	
Mumbai	Bombay	
Panaji	Panjim	
Patna	Patliputra	
Thiruvananthapuram	Trivendrum	
Vadodara	Baroda	
Varanasi	Banaras	
The World		

New name	Old name
Ankara	Angora
Beijing	Peking
Cambodia	Kampuchea
Dhaka	Dacca
Ghana	Gold Cost
Indonesia	Batavia
Iran	Persia
Iraq	Mesopotamia
Japan	Nippon
Malaysia	Malaya
Myanmar	Burma
Netherlands, The	Holland
Sri Lanka	Ceylon
Taiwan	Formosa

Thailand	Siam
Yangon	Rangoon
Zaire	Congo
Zimbabwe	Rhodesia

# **Geographical Epithets**

India	
Epithet	Name
Blue Mountains	Nilgiri

City of Lakes	Hills
City of Palaces	Udaipur
Garden City	Kolkata
Gateway of India	Bengaluru
Land of Coconuts; Spice	Mumbai
Garden of India	Kerala
Land of Five Rivers	Punjab
Pink City	Jaipur
Queen of the Arabian Sea	Cochin
Sorrow of Bengal	Damoder
Sun City	River
	Jodhpur
The World	
City of Arabian Nights	

City of Seven Hills;	Baghdad
Eternal City	Rome
City of Skyscrapers;	New York
Empire City	Africa
Dark Continent	Lhasa
Forbidden City	(Tibet)
Gift of the Nile	Egypt
Holy Land	Palestine
Island of Pearls	Bahrain
Land of Kangaroos; Land	Australia
of the Golden Fleece	Canada
Land of Lilies; Land of	Korea
Maple Leaf	Japan
Land of Morning Calm;	Finland
Hermit Kingdom	Bhutan
Land of Rising Sun	Diamii

Land of Thousand Lakes	Thailand
Land of Thunderbolt	Switzerland
Land of White Elephant	Pamirs
Playground of Europe	(Tibet)
Roof of the World	Turkey
Sickman of Europe	River
Sorrow of China; Yellow	Huang He
River	Cuba
Sugar Bowl of the World	

### **Riverside Cities**

Indian Cities	
City	River
Agra (UP)	Yamuna

Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Sabarmati
Ayodhya (UP)	Saryu
Cuttack (Orissa)	Mahanadi
Delhi	Yamuna
Guwahati (Assam)	Brahmaputra
Hardwar (Uttarakhand)	Ganga
Hyderabad (AP)	Musi
Kanpur (UP)	Ganga
Kolkata (West Bengal)	Hooghly
Lucknow (UP)	Gomti
Mathura (UP)	Yamuna
Patna (Bihar)	Ganga
Srinagar (J&K)	Jhelum
Surat (Gujarat)	Tapti
Tiruchirappalli (Tamil	Kaveri

Nadu)	Shipra	
Ujjain (MP)	Ganga	
Varanasi (UP)	Krishna	
Vijayawada (AP)		
		-
Foreign Cities	;	
Baghdad (Iraq)	Tigris	
Berlin (Germany)	Spree	
Cairo (Egypt)	Nile	
Karachi (Pakistan)	Indus	
Lahore (Pakistan)	Ravi	
London (England)	Thames	
Moscow (Russia)	Moskva	
New York (USA)	Hudson	
Paris (France)	Seine	

Rome (Italy) Tiber
Tokyo (Japan) Sumida
Washington, DC (USA) Potomac

# Cities Associated with Industries

Indian Cities	
City	Industry

Agra (UP)	
Ahmedabad	
(Gujarat)	
Aligarh (UP)	Shoes, leather
Anand (Gujarat)	Textiles
Bengaluru	Locks
(Karnataka)	Amul dairy
Bhilai	Aircraft, telephones,
(Chhattisgarh)	computers
Bokaro	Steel
(Jharkhand)	Steel
Chittaranjan (West Bengal)	Locomotives
Delhi	Publishing
Ferozabad (UP)	Glass bangles
Jamshedpur	Iron, steel

(Jharkhand)	Coal mines	
Jharia (Jharkhand) Kanpur (UP) Kolar (Karnataka) Ludhiana (Punjab) Meerut (UP) Mirzapur (UP) Moradabad (UP) Nepanagar (MP) Visakhapatnam (AP)	Textiles, leather goods Gold mines Hosiery Scissors Carpets Brassware Newsprint Ship-building	
Foreign Cities		

Abadan (Iran)	Oil refineries
Detroit (USA)	Automobiles
Dhaka (Bangladesh)	Jute
Geneva (Switzerland)	Watches
Havana (Cuba)	Cigars, sugar
Hollywood (USA)	Films
Johannesburg (South	Gold mines
Africa)	Diamond
Kimberley (South Africa)	mines
Tehran (Iran)	Carpets
Venice (Italy)	Glass
Wellington (New	Dairy
Zealand)	products
	1

ı

### **Number of Players**

Game	Number of players
Badminton	1 or 2
Baseball	9

Basketball	5	
Cricket	11	
Football	11	
Hockey	11	
Ice hockey	6	
Kabaddi	8	
Polo	4	
Rugby League	13	
Rugby Union	15	
Table tennis	1 or 2	
Tennis	1 or 2	
Volleyball	6	
Water polo	l <sub>7</sub>	



#### **Believe It or Not:**

- Ice hockey is the world's fastest team game.
- There is enough salt in the sea to cover all the continents with a layer of salt 150 m thick.
- The world's longest boundary lies between Canada and the USA, which extends for 6,416 km.

# **Names of Playgrounds**

Game	Playground
Badminton	Court
Baseball	Diamond

Basketball	Court	
Billiards	Table	
Boxing	Ring	
Chess	Board	
Cricket	Ground	
Football	Ground	
Golf	Course	
Hockey	Field	
Ice hockey	Rink	
Polo	Ground	
Race	Track	
Shooting Skating	Range Rink	
Swimming	Pool	
Table tennis	Table	
Tennis	Court	

Volleyball	Court
Wrestling	Arena



#### **Believe It or Not:**

- The kiwi lays an egg a quarter of her own weight. The egg weighs 420 g
   the kiwi weighs 1.7 kg.
- A huge underwater river flows underneath the Nile, with six times

- more water than the river above.Termites build their nests in huge
- mounds many times taller than themselves. If people lived in huge buildings equivalent to a termite's nest, they would be over 4,000 m high.

### **National Games**

Country	National game
Argentina	Football
Australia	Cricket

Brazil	Football
Canada	Ice hockey
China	Table tennis
England	Cricket
India	Hockey
Japan	Ju-jitsu
Malaysia	Badminton
Russia	Chess
Scotland	Rugby
Spain	Bull fighting
USA	Baseball



#### **Believe It or Not:**

- Brazil is the only country to have played in every World Cup Soccer Tournament.
- Ronaldo of Brazil is the highest goal-scorer in the history of the World Cup Soccer.
- The game of rugby was first played in 1823 at Rugby School (England) when William Webb Ellis picked up

the ball and ran with it during a game of football.

### **Olympic Games**

Olympic Games are the most important international athletic competition in the world. They are held every four years, each time in a different country. This

together thousands of the world's finest athletes to compete against one another in a variety of individual and team sports. More than 10,000 athletes representing over 190 nations participate in the Olympics. Millions of people attend the games and more than 1 billion people throughout the world watch the Olympics on television.

world's oldest sports event brings

#### **Ancient Olympics**

The Olympics Games originated in ancient Greece and were held from 776 BC to AD 393. They were celebrated like religious festivals, honouring Zeus,

the king of the gods. The Roman

and the games soon lost their religious meaning. In AD 393, Emperor Theodosius I banned the games.

conquered Greece during the 140's BC,

#### Modern Olympics

educator, revived the games to encourage world peace and friendship and to promote healthy sporting competition for the youth of the world.

Baron Pierre de Coubertine, a french

The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. In the opening ceremony, the athletes of Greece march into the stadium first, in honour of the original games held in ancient Greece. The athletes of the host

country enter last.

# The International Olympic Committee The International Olympic Committee

(IOC) is the governing body of the Olympic Games. The IOC has its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The Committee approves the sports and events to be included in the games. The IOC also selects the host cities for the games, seven years in advance. Host cities provide a special housing compound called the Olympic Village for the athletes and coaches.

#### Olympic Flame

The flame symbolizes the light of spirit,

carries the torch into the stadium, circles the tract and lights a huge cauldron (pot). The flame is kept burning throughout the games and then extinguished during the closing ceremony. Olympic Emblem and Flag The Olympic Emblem, created in 1913, consists of five interlocking rings that represent the continents of Africa, Asia,

knowledge and life, and it is a message of peace. The fire is ignited in Olympia, Greece, by using a mirror to concentrate the rays of the Sun. Runners transport the flame in a torch relay from Greece to the site of the games. The final runner flag of every nation competing in the games has at least one of these colours. The Olympic Flag is white in colour,

Australia, Europe and the Americas. The

originally made of cotton. The Emblem is placed in the middle of the flag.

	-
Blue ring	Europe
Yellow ring	Asia
Black ring	Africa
Green ring	Australia
Red ring	America
L	

Colour of ring | Continent represented |

### Olympic Motto

Citius, Altius, Fortius

These are Latin words which are translated as: 'Swifter, Higher, Stronger'.

#### Olympic Epigram

"The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well."

#### Olympic Medals

The winners are awarded medals, but no prize money. The top three finishers in each event receive a medal and a diploma. The next five finishers get only a diploma. Each first-place winner receives a gold medal, which is actually made of silver and coated with gold.

silver and the third-place medal is made of bronze. The design for the medal changes for each Olympics. All members of a winning relay team get a medal. In team sports, all the members of a winning team who have played in at least one of the games during the competition receive a medal.

The second-place medal is made of

#### The Summer Games

Summer Games and the Winter Games. The Summer Games are held during the summer season of the host city, usually

The Olympic Games consist of the

summer season of the host city, usually between July and October. These games last 16 days. Athletes compete in more Summer Games. Women first participated in Olympics in 1900 in Paris.

are usually held in February and last 16

than 270 separate events during the

# The Winter Games The Winter Games with over 60 events

days. The games attract approximately 2,000 athletes from around 60 countries. The Winter Games, established in 1924, took place the same year as the Summer Games. Beginning in 1994, the Winter and Summer Games were divided and scheduled on four-year cycles two years apart.

# India's Major Achievements in Olympics:

- Indian hockey team has won 8 Gold,
  1 Silver and 2 Bronze medals in Olympics so far.
  K.D. Jadhav has won a Bronze
- medal in wrestling in 1952Olympics.Leander Paes has won a Bronze
- medal in tennis in 1996 Olympics.Karnam Malleswari has won a Bronze medal in weightlifting in

2000 Olympics.

 Major Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has won a Silver medal in double trap shooting in 2004 Olympics.

- Abhinav Bindra won the first ever individual Gold medal for India in the Men's 10 m air rifle event in 2008 Olympics.
  Sushil Kumar won a Bronze medal in
- Sushil Kumar won a Bronze medal in the men's 66 kg freestyle wrestling and Vijender Kumar won a Bronze in the middleweight boxing in 2008 Olympics.

#### 24.

# **World Cup Soccer**

The World Cup Soccer Tournament, organized by the Federation of the International Football Association (FIFA), is one of the most popular sports

four	years	to o	determ	ine	the	wor	ld's
socce	r chan	npion	. The	Cup	give	en to	the
winne	er is ma	ade c	of pure	soli	d go	ld an	d is
12 inches in height.							
Wir	nners	and	the	ven	ues	of	the
nrevio	2110	Wo	rld	Cur	1	Soc	cer

tournaments in the world. It is held every

# THE WORLD CUP SOCCER TOUI RECORD

Tournaments are as follows:

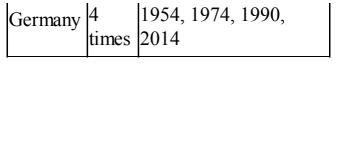
Italy

TECOTE 1				
Year Winner		Winner	Runner-up	Score
	1930	Uruguay	Argentina	4 - 2
	1934	Italy	Czechoslovakia	2 - 1

Hungary

1950 1954	Uruguay Germany	Brazil Hungary	$\frac{2-1}{3-2}$
1958	Brazil	Sweden	5 - 2
1962	Brazil	Czechoslovakia	3 – 1
1966	England	W Germany	4 – 2
1970	Brazil	Italy	4 – 1
1974	W Germany	Holland	2 – 1
1978	Argentina	Holland	3 – 1
1982	Italy	W Germany	3 – 1
1986	Argentina	W Germany	3 - 2
1990	W Germany	Argentina	1-0
1994	Brazil	Italy	3 - 2
	1		I

1998	France		Brazil	3 - 0	
2002	Brazil		Germany	3 – 0	
2006	Ital	у	France	5 – 3	
2010	Spain		Netherlands	1-0	
2014	)14 Germany		Argentina $1-0$		
	The following statistics give the earlier winners:				
Count	try	Won	In year		
Brazil 5 time		l I	1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002		
Italy		l I	1934, 1938, 1982 2006	),	



#### 25.

# **World Cup Cricket**

The World Cup Cricket Tournament is held every four years. The first tournament was held in 1975 in England in which England, Australia, West

1979. The first three tournaments, for three consecutive occasions — 1975, 1979 and 1983, were held in England. The ICC (International Cricket Council) is in charge of the overall administration of the World Cup Cricket Tournament, though the ruling bodies of the countries where the tournaments take place are responsible for local arrangements. The ICC was originally founded in 1909 as the Imperial Cricket Conference but was renamed the International Cricket Council in 1989.

Winners and the venues of the

Indies, New Zealand, India and Pakistan took Part. The West Indies won this tournament and also the next one in previous World Cup Cricket Tournaments are as follows:

THE WORLD CUP CRICKET TOURNAMENT RECORD				
Year	Winner	Runner- up	Venue	
1975	West Indies	Australia	England	
1979	West Indies	England	England	
1983	India	West Indies	England	
1987	Australia	England	India and Pakistan	

1992	Pakistan	England	Australia and New Zealand
1996	Sri Lanka	Australia	India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
1999	Australia	Pakistan	England
2003	Australia	India	South Africa
2007	Australia	Sri Lanka	West Indies
2011	India	Sri Lanka	India
		-	-

### Believe It or Not:

- The English, the founder of the cricket, have never won the World Cup.
- Indian hockey team failed to qualify for the Beijing Olympics 2008.
- Some species of the bamboo plant have been found to grow at up to 91 cm per day.

#### **26.**

# **Famous Sportspersons**

#### Archery

Limba Ram Shyam Lal

# Milkha Singh

**Athletics** 

P. T. Usha

Shiny Wilson Ashwini Nachappa

Paramjit Singh

Carl Lewis
Jesse Owens

Michael Johnson

#### Badminton

Prakash Padukone Syed Modi

Gopi Chand

### Hanuman Singh Suman Sharma Michael Jordan

Baskethall

# Billiards Geet Sethi Michael Ferreira Wilson Jones Mike Russel

Boxing
Vijender Kumar
Khaur Singh
Muhammad Ali

Mike Tyson Evander Holyfield

#### Chess

Vishwanathan Anand

Dibyendu Barua Vijaylakshmi Subbaraman

Gary Kasparov

Anatoly Karpov Bobby Fischer

#### Cricket

Bishan Singh Bedi

Mohinder Amarnath M.A.K. Pataudi

ataudi

Ravi Shastri Sunil Gavaskar Kapil Dev Sachin Tendulkar Javagal Srinath Mahendra Singh Dhoni Sir Donald Bradman Sir Richard Hadlee Grieg Chappel Allan Border Sir Garfield Sobers Sir Vivian Richards Imran Khan Wasim Akram Brian Lara

Sanath Jayasuriya Steve Waugh

#### Football

Subroto Bhattacharjee

Baichung Bhutia Pele

Diego Maradona

Ronaldo

Ronaldinho

Zinedine Zidane

David Beckham

#### Golf

Chiranjeev Milkha Singh

Ali Sher Nick Faldo

#### Hockey

Dhyan Chand Dhanraj Pillay

Pargat Singh Mohd. Shahid

#### Mountaineering

Tenzing Norgay Bachendri Pal

Santosh Yadav Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia

Sir Edmund Hillary

#### Shooting

Abhinav Bindra Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

Jaspal Rana

#### **Swimming**

Khazan Singh

Sebastian Xavier

English Channel Swimming

Mihir Sen

Arati Saha

#### **Tennis**

Leander Paes

Mahesh Bhupati Vijay Amritraj Sania Mirza Stefan Edberg Boris Becker Andre Agassi Pete Sampras Martina Navratilova Steffi Graf Monica Seles Martina Hingis Venus Williams Maria Sharapova

### Weightlifting

Karnam Malleswari Kanjurani Devi

#### Wrestling

K.D. Jadhav

Sushil Kumar Satpal Singh

#### 27.

# Sports Cups and Trophies

# National Associated

Name	Sport
Aga Khan Cup	Hockey
Bengaluru Blues Challenge Cup	Basketball Weightlifting
Burdwan Trophy	Football
DCM Trophy	Hockey
Dhyan Chand Trophy	Cricket
Duleep Trophy	Football
Durand Cup	Polo
Ezra Cup	Cricket
Irani Trophy	Table tennis
Jayalakshmi Cup	(Women)
Lady Ratan Tata Trophy	Hockey (Women) Cricket
Ranji Trophy	

Santosh Trophy Subroto Mukherji ( Wellington Cup Winchester Cup	Football Football Rowing Polo	
Internation Name Ass		onal ociated Sport
American Cup Ashes Corbillion Cup Davis Cup Derby Merdeka Cup Prince of Wales	Cric Eng Wor (Wo Ten Hor	ht racing eket (Australia- land) eld table tennis omen) nis se racing gland)

Cup	Football (Asia)
Ryder Cup	Golf (England)
Sharjah Cup	Golf (England)
Thomas Cup	Cricket
Tunku Abdul	World badminton
Rehman Cup	(Men)
Uber Cup	Badminton (Asia)
Walker Cup	World badminton
William Cup	(Women)
Wimbledon	Golf (England)
Trophy	Basketball
	Tennis
	-

#### **28.**

## **Sports Terms**

#### **Archery**

Target

Bull's-eye

### Let Drop **Fault** Smash Deuce Baseball Pitcher Put out Home

**Bunting** 

**Badminton** 

**Basketball** Dribble

**Pivot** Multiple throws Free throw Holding **Billiards** Cue Pot Cannon Jigger **Boxing** Punch Hook Jab

Knockout Upper cut

# **Bridge**Dummy

Revoke

Trump Tricks

# Chess

Bishop

Check
Checkmate

Gambit Stalemate

# Cricket lbw Duck Googly

Stumped

Hit wicket Crease

Hat trick

Maiden over Drive

Wide ball

No ball Silly point

Silly point Follow on

Leg bye Chinaman

# Football Dribble

Hat trick Handball

Throw-in
Free kick
Corner kick

Penalty kick

# Golf

Put Caddie Bogey
Birdie

Hockey
Dribble
Hat trick
Bully
Scoop

Horse racing
Jockey

Roll-in

Carry

Short corner

Tee

Punter Polo Bunker Mallet Chukker Rugby Scrum Drop goal Touchdown **Shooting** 

Bull's-eye

Plug

# Swimming Freestyle Breast str

Breast stroke
Backstroke

Butterfly stroke Medley

Tennis

Let

Fault Smash

Deuce

Backhand Volley Half Volley Ace

#### Volleyball Volley

**Doubling** 

**Blocking** Booster

Service

# Weightlifting

Snatch Clean and jerk

Military press

Bench press

#### Wrestling

Scissor

Heave

Half-Nelson

Head lock

# **Sports Measurements**

Here are standard measurements of some sports playgrounds and goods:

#### **Badminton**

Court — 44 ft  $\times$  17 ft (for singles) 44 ft  $\times$  20 ft (for doubles)

#### Basketball

Court —  $85 \text{ ft} \times 46 \text{ ft}$ 

Height of basket — 10 ft (3.05 m)

## **Billiards**

Table — 12 ft  $\times$  6 ft

#### Cricket

Length of pitch — 22 yards (20.1 m) Maximum length of bat — 38 inches

(96.5 cm) Maximum width of bat — 4.5 inches

Weight of ball — 5.5–5.75 ounces (156–163 g)

### Football

(11.4 cm)

Length of field — 100–130 yards (90–120 m)
Breadth of field — 50–100 yards (45–

90 m)
Height of goal — 8 ft (2.44 m)
Width of goal — 24 ft (7.3 m)

Golf

Diameter of hole — 4.25 inches (10.8 cm)

# Length of field — 100 yards (90 m)

Breadth of field — 55–60 yards (50–55 m)

#### Marathon

Hockey

Distance to be run — 26 miles, 385 yards (42.195 km)

### Polo

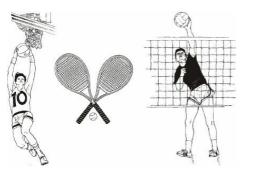
Ground — 300 yd × 160 yd

#### Tennis

Court — 78 ft  $\times$  27 ft (for singles) 78 ft  $\times$  36 ft (for doubles)

#### Volleyball

#### Court — $30 \text{ ft} \times 30 \text{ ft}$



# Sports Stadiums in India

Name	Location
Ambedkar Stadium	

Barabati Stadium	New Delhi
Brabourne Stadium	Cuttack
Chepauk Stadium	Mumbai
Dhyan Chand Stadium	Chennai
Eden Gardens	Lucknow
Feroz Shah Kotla Ground	Kolkata
Green Park	New Delhi
Indira Gandhi Indoor	Kanpur
Stadium	New Delhi
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	New Delhi
Keenan Stadium	Jamshedpur
Lal Bahadur Shastri	Hyderabad
Stadium	New Delhi
National Stadium	Kolkata
Netaji Indoor Stadium	

Jaipur Shivaji Stadium New Delhi Talkatora Indoor Stadium New Delhi Vallabh Bhai Patel Mumbai Stadium Mumbai Wankhede Stadium Patiala Yadvindra Stadium Kolkata Yuba Bharati (Salt Lake) **Believe It or Not:** • Snakes never close their eyes at any time.

If you fell down from the Mount

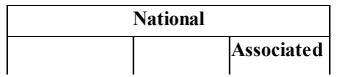
Kolkata

Ranjit Stadium

Sawai Man Singh Stadium

- Everest, at 8,850 m high, it would take you 43 seconds to hit the ground.
  The Queen Alexandra's birdwing is the world's largest butterfly with
- the world's largest butterfly, with wings measuring up to 28 cm across.

# Places Associated with Sports



Place	Location	with
Ambedkar Stadium	New Delhi	Football
Chepauk Stadium	Chennai	Cricket
Dhyan Chand Stadium	Lucknow	Hockey
Eden Gardens	Kolkata	Cricket
Ferozshah Kotla Ground	New Delhi	Cricket
Green Park	Kanpur	Cricket
Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium	Hyderabad	Hockey
Sawai Man	Jaipur	Hockey

Singh Stadium Shivaji Stadium	New Delhi	Hockey
Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai	Cricket
Yuba Bharati Stadium	Kolkata	Football
In	ternational	
In Place	ternational Location	Associated with
Place	Location	with

Leeds	England	Cricket
Lord's	England	Cricket
Maracana Municipal Stadium	Brazil	Football
Oval	England	Cricket
Putney	England	Rowing
Wembley	England	Football
Wimbledon	England	Tennis
Believe It or Not:		
• More than 90 per cent of all species		

of flowers have no scent at all.

Hurlingham

England Polo

- Rafflesia is the world's biggest flower. It grows up to 1 m across.
- There are nearly three times as many as plant species as there are animal species.

## First in India

First President of India Prasad (1950)

First Prime Minister of Jawaharlal

India	Nehru (1947)
First woman Prime Minister of India	Indira Gandhi (1966)
First man to go into the space	Rakesh Sharma (1984)
First woman to go into the space	Kalpana Chawla (1997)
First man to climb Mount Everest	Tenzing Norgay (1953)
First woman to climb Mount Everest	Bachendri Pal (1984)
First woman to climb Mount Everest twice	Santosh Yadav (1992, 93)
First man to get Nobel Prize	Rabindranath Tagore (1913)
	[

First woman to get Nobel Prize	Mother Teresa (1979)
First woman Minister	Vijayalakshmi Pandit (1937)
First woman Chief Minister of a state (UP)	Sucheta Kripalani (1963)
First woman Governor of a state (UP)	Sarojini Naidu
First woman Judge of Supreme Court	M. Fatima Beevi (1989)
First woman IAS officer	Anna George Malhotra (1950)
First woman IPS officer	Kiran Bedi (1972)

First woman airline pilot	Durba Banerji
First woman to win Miss World title	Reita Faria (1966)
First woman to win Miss Universe title	Sushmita Sen (1994)
First man to swim across the English Channel	Mihir Sen (1958)
First woman to swim across the English Channel	Arati Saha (1959)
First man to win an Oscar	Bhanu Athaiya (1982)
First man to make a	J.R.D. Tata

commercial flight	(1932)
First Mughal Emperor in India	Babar (1526)
First Muslim woman to sit on the throne of Delhi	Razia Sultana (1236)
First Viceroy of India	Lord Canning
First Governor- General of India	Warren Hastings (1772)
First Governor- General of free India	Lord Mountbatten (1947)
First (and the last) Indian Governor- General of free India	C. Rajagopalachari (1948)

First President of Indian National Congress	W.C. Bonerjee (1885)
First Indian to win Gold Medal in Olympics	Abhinav Bindra (2008)
First film	Raja Harishchandra (1913)
First talkie film	Alam Ara (1931)
First newspaper	Bengal Gazette (1780)
First satellite	Aryabhatta (1975)
	•

## First in the World

First man to go into	Yuri Gagarin
the space	(1961)
First woman to go into	Valentina

the space	(1963)
First man to set foot on the Moon	Neil Armstrong (1969)
First men to climb Mount Everest	Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay (1953)
First woman to climb Mount Everest	Junko Tabei (1975)
First woman to climb Mount Everest twice	Santosh Yadav (1992,93)
First President of USA	George Washington (1789)
First Prime Minister of Britain	Sir Robert Walpole (1721)

First lady Prime	Sirimavo
Minister of a country	Bandaranaike
(Sri Lanka)	(1960)
First lady Prime	Margaret
Minister of Britain	Thatcher (1979)
First lady Prime	Benazir Bhutto
Minister of Pakistan	(1988)
First man to sail round	Ferdinand
the world	Magellan (1521)
First man to reach	Roald Amundsen
South Pole	(1911)
First woman to reach	Fran Phipps
South Pole	(1971)
First man to reach	Robert Peary
North Pole	(1909)

First woman to reach North Pole	Karoline Mikkelsen
First surgeon to perform the successful human heart transplant	(1935) Christiaan Barnard (1967)
First European to invade India	Alexander the Great (326 BC)
First Chinese pilgrim to visit India	Fahien (405 AD)
First European to visit China	Marco Polo (1271)
First country to win the Football World Cup	Uruguay (1930)
First satellite	Sputnik 1 (1957)

#### **Believe It or Not:**

Moon.

- The rate of sweating in men is double that of women.
  - The highest speed ever recorded on any national rail system is 574.8 km/h by a French highspeed TGV
  - train.The Australian 2,000 km long Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest

structure made by living things. It is so large that it can be seen from the

# Popular Titles of Famous Personalities

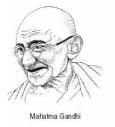
India	
Title	Original name

	Mahatma Gandhi
Bapu/Father of the	Jawaharlal Nehru
Nation	C.F. Andrews
Chacha/Panditji	Milkha Singh
Deenbandhu	Dadabhai Naoroji
Flying Sikh	Rabindranath
Grand Old Man of	Tagore
India	Kapil Dev
Gurudev	Dhyan Chand
Haryana Hurricane	Sunil Gavaskar
Hockey Wizard	Bal Gangadhar
Little Master	Tilak
Lokmanya	Jayaprakash
Loknayak/JP	Narayan
Mahamana	Madan Mohan
	Malviya

	Bhai Patel
Man of Peace	Lal Bahadur
Master Blaster	Shastri
Netaji	Sachin Tendulkar
Nightingale of	Subhash Chandra
India	Bose
Sher-e-Kashmir	Sarojini Naidu
Sher-e-	Sheikh Muhammad
Punjab/Punjab	Abdullah
Kesari	Lala Lajpat Rai
Tiger of the Snows	Tenzing Norgay

Sardar Vallabh

Man of Iron





Dhyan Chand

Bangabandhu Bard of Avon Black Pearl

Don

Father of English

Poetry

ur-Rehman William

Sheikh Mujib-

Shakespeare Pele

Sir Donald Bradman

Geoffrey Chaucer

Gandhi/Badshah Khan	Abdul Ghaffar
Fuhrer (Leader	Khan
GBS	Adolf Hitler
Lady of the Lamp	George
Man of Blood and	Bernard Shah
Iron/Iron Chancellor	Florence Nightingale
Man of Destiny/Little	Otto Von
Corporal	Bismarck
	Napoleon
	Bonaparte





Pele Adolf Hitler

# Nationalities of Famous Personalities

Personality	Country
Abraham Lincoln	v

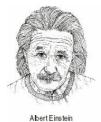
Alexander the Great Alfred Bernhard Nobel Benito Mussolini Charlie Chaplin Christiaan Barnard Christopher Columbus Florence Nightingale Galileo Galilei	USA Germany (born Austria) USA (born Germany) Macedonia Sweden Italy England South Africa Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy France
---	--

Louis Braille	China
Mao Tse-tung	
Martin Luther	
King	
Muhammad Ali	
Napoleon	USA
Bonaparte	Pakistan (born
Neil Armstrong	USA)
Nelson Mandela	France
Otto Von	USA
Bismarck	South Africa
Pele	Germany
Sir Donald	Brazil
Bradman	Australia
Sir Edmund	New Zealand
Hillary	

Sir Winston Britain Churchill Churchill Portugal Vasco da Gama Russia Vladimir Lenin USA Walt Disney **England** William Russia Shakespeare Yuri Gagarin

England

Sir Isaac Newton









Neil Armstrong

#### **Believe It or Not:**

• Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) drew his plans for a helicopter hundreds of years before flying machines were actually invented.

## **Famous Founders**

Foundation	Founder
	Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
	Ahmad Khan
Aligarh Muslim	Swami

University	Dayanand
Arya Samaj	Saraswati
Banaras Hindu	Madan Mohan
University	Malviya
Bhabha Atomic	Homi Jehangir
Research Centre	Bhabha
(BARC)	Raja Ram
Brahmo Samaj	Mohan Rai
Buddhism	Gautam
Christianity	Buddha
Din-e-Elahi	Jesus Christ
Indian National Army	Akbar
Indian National	Subhash
Congress	Chandra Bose
Islam	A.O. Hume
Jainism	Prophet

Missionaries of Charity Modern Nursing System	Muhammad Vardhamana Mahavira Mother Teresa Florence Nightingale
Muslim League Ramakrishna Mission Red Cross Saka Era Shantiniketan Sikhism Zoroastrianism (Parsi	Nawab Salimullah Khan Swami Vivekanand Jean Henri Dunant Kanishka Rabindranath Tagore

Akbar Swami Vivekanand

The atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed 80,000 people

• There are more species of fish than there are of mammals, birds,

Guru Nanak

Zoroaster

religion)

**Believe It or Not:** 

instantly.

- reptiles and amphibians put together.There is about 200 times more gold
- buried in the sea than has been mined from the land.

## **Popular Slogans**

Do or die.

— Mahatma Gandhi

Aram haram hai.

D1 .1		
Play the	game in the spin	rit of the game.
	— J	lawaharlal Nehru

— Jawaharlal Nehru

Give me blood, I will give you freedom.

— Subhash Chandra Bose

Dilli Chalo.
— Subhash Chandra Bose

Swaraj is my birthright and I will have it.

— Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Direct Action — Ali Jinnah Government of the people, by the people, for the people. Abraham Lincoln Just as I would not like to be a slave, so I would not like to be a master. Abraham Lincoln

That's one small step for man, one giant

— Lal Bahadur Shastri

Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan.

leap for mankind.	—Neil Armstrong
Eureka! Eureka! (I ha	we found it.)  — Archimedes
Man is by nature a po	olitical animal. —Aristotle
The roots of education fruit is sweet.	on are bitter, but the  —Aristotle
I am the greatest!	—Muhammad Ali

—Sir Robert Walpole

The child is the father of a man.

Every man has his price.

Old wood best to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to trust and old authors to read.

—William Wordsworth

—Francis Bacon

**Believe It or Not:** 

• An ant can pull a load 300 times

- heavier than itself and lift an item 50 times its own weight.It rains nearly everyday on Mount
- Waialeale in Hawaii. In fact, there are only about 15 days in a year when it does not rain.

## **Animal Records**

Record	Animal	Description
Largest animal	Blue whale	30 m long, 135 tonnes

Largest land animal	African elephant	3.5 m tall, 6.5 tonnes
Tallest land animal	Giraffe	5.5 m tall
Fastest land animal	Cheetah	110 km/h
Largest land carnivore	Polar bear	2.5 m long, 500 kg
Largest bird	Ostrich	2.75 m tall, 150 kg
Smallest bird	Bee hummingbird	5 cm long, 3 g
Fastest flying bird	Swift	200 km/h

Fastest	Peregrine	360 km/h
diving bird Largest bird of prey	falcon Andean condor	3 m wing- span, 12 kg
Largest fish	Whale shark	13 m long, 20 tonnes
Smallest fish	Dwarf goby	1 cm long
Fastest fish	Sailfish	110 km/h
Largest snake	Anaconda	9 m long, 250 kg
Longest snake	Reticulated python	10 m long
Shortest	Thread snake	10 cm long

snake Largest venomous snake	King cobra	5.0 m long
Largest reptile	Saltwater crocodile	4.8 m long,450 kg
Largest lizard	Komodo dragon	2.25 m long, 60 kg
Largest rodent	Capybara	1.4 m Long, 110 kg
Largest insect	Goliath beetle	11 cm long, 100 g
Longest insect	Stick insect	35 cm long
Fastest insect	Dragonfly	75 km/h

•	Goliath bird- eating spider	_

## **Animal Facts**

#### Flying Fish

The flying fish cannot fly like a bird, but it leaps into the air, up to 3 m and then glides for about 200 m before splashing back. It usually does this only when frightened.



#### **Egg Laying Mammal**

Platypus is a mammal, although it lays eggs. It grows up to 60 cm long, lives in a burrow and hunts in the water. It is found in Australia. Only a few mammals lay eggs.



#### **Bee-size Baby**

A new-born kangaroo measures only about 2 cm. It crawls into its mother's pouch and stays there for six months, feeding on milk and growing.



### **Musical Insects**

Insects have no voice. The noise they make are all produced by their wings or legs. The rapid movement of their wings or legs make that noise. Grasshoppers sing by rubbing their legs against a rough patch on their wings. Crickets use their wings to make sound.



#### **Unique Pattern**

No two zebras have exactly the same pattern of stripes. Like human fingerprints, each zebra's stripe pattern is unique.



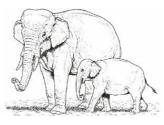
#### Vampire's Dinner

Vampire bats, found in South America, feed on blood. They lap blood by bitting asleep animals without disturbing them. The bat's saliva contains a substance which stops the blood from clotting.

#### **Longest Pregnancy**

The Asian elephant has the longest pregnancy period in mammals. It has an

average pregnancy period of one year nine months and a maximum of two years one month.



#### **Great Hunters**

they have an excellent sense of smell. They can smell blood diluted a million times in water and thus can detect a wounded animal in the sea. All living animals produce a small amount of electricity. Sharks can sense this

Although sharks have poor eyesight, but

electricity and find where animals are hiding.



#### Smart Cuckoos

female cuckoo lays an egg in the nest of another bird and takes away one of the host's eggs to make room for it. The host bird has the task of hatching and feeding the young cuckoo. As it grows up, the young cuckoo pushes all the host bird's eggs and young from the nest. By the time it is ready to leave the nest, the

Cuckoos do not make their nests. A

young cuckoo may be several times the size of its long-suffering foster parents.

#### **Electric Eel**

An electric eel is a freshwater fish measuring up to 2 m long. It produces powerful electric shocks of up to 500 volts. A shock of this power can kill a human.



#### **Champion Migrant**

The Arctic tern is the champion in

migration. It travels the longest distance during the migratory journey. It covers a round trip of about 36,000 km from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back.



#### Wandering Wonder

The wandering albatross has the longest wings of any bird. When outstretched, they measure as much as 3.3 m from tip to tip.



#### **Red Alert**

Most of the people think that a bull is irritated by the red colour. Well, it is not the colour that irritates the animal. A bull is colour-blind! It gets angry to see the cloth or bull fighter's cape because it is being waved about.

#### Sense of Smell

Unlike most birds, the kiwi has a good sense of smell which helps it to find tip of its long beak. It uses its sense of smell to find out earthworms and insects hiding in the soil.

Giant pandas are some of the rarest

food at night. A kiwi has nostrils at the

#### Rarest Pandas

animals in the world. There are less than 1,000 giant pandas left. They live only in high mountain ranges in three isolated parts of China. They need to eat about 20 kg of one special type of bamboo a day and spend about twelve hours a day feeding. Many pandas starve if the bamboo crop fails or is cut down.



#### Whales are Mammals

Whales are not fish. They are mammals, as they give birth to babies and feed them on milk. They do not have gills like fish and therefore come to the surface every 5-10 minutes to breathe. They breathe through blowholes on their backs.



#### They are not Insects

Spiders and scorpions are not insects. An insect has six legs whereas a spider or a scorpion has eight legs. They belong to a family of animals called *Arachnida*.



#### Do they really Dance

It is a myth that snakes dance on the music played by a snake-charmer for them. In fact, they are deaf! They just follow the movements of the flute as they get frightened.



# National Parks and Sanctuaries

A national park or a sanctuary is a protected area for the animals. Poaching

the Wildlife Protection Act. Cultivation, grazing domestic animals and collection of forest products are permitted in a sanctuary, but such activities are strictly prohibited in a national park. At present,

India has 89 national parks and 490

and killing of wildlife is illegal under

sanctuaries covering about 4.7% of the total geographical area of the country. Here are some important national parks and sanctuaries:

Name	Area (sq. km.)	Location
Annamalai Sanctuary	958	Annamalai, Tamil Nadu

Bandhavgarh National Park	449	Shahdol, MP
Bandipur National Park	866	Near Mysore, Karnataka
Corbett National Park	1,134	Nainital, Uttarakhand
Dachigam National Park	141	Dachigam, Kashmir
Dandeli Sanctuary	5,730	Near Dharwar, Karnataka
Dhauladhar Sanctuary	944	Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
Dudhwa National Park	811	Lakhimpurkheri, UP

Gir National Park	259	Junagarh, Gujarat
Hazaribagh Sanctuary	186	Hazaribagh, Jharkhand
Hemis National Park	4,100	Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir
Kanha National Park	1,945	Mandla, MP
Kaziranga National Park	696	Jorhat, Assam
Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary	28	Bharatpur, Rajasthan
Manas Sanctuary	390	Barpeta Road, Assam
Pachmarhi		Hoshangabad,

Sanctuary	461	MP
Periyar Sanctuary	775	Idukki, Kerala
Rajaji National Park	820	Near Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Ranthambhor National Park	1,174	Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan
Sanjay Gandhi National Park	103	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Sariska Sanctuary	800	Alwar, Rajasthan
Similipal National Park	2,750	Mayurbhanj, Orissa
Sonai-Rupai	175	Tezpur, Assam

Sanctuary Sunderban National Park	2,585	24, Pargana, West Bengal
Wild Ass Sanctuary	4,953	Rann of Kutch, Gujarat

## Famous Sites (India)

Site	Location
Ajanta & Ellora	
Akbar's Tomb	Aurangabad,
	Maharashtra

Amarnath Cave Anand Bhavan Brindavan Gardens Buland Darwaza Char Minar Chilka Lake Dal Lake Dalal Street Dilwara Temples Dolls Museum Gateway of India Gol Gumbaz	Sikandara, Near Agra Pahalgam, J&K Allahabad Mysore, Karnataka Fatehpur Sikri, Near Agra Hyderabad Bhubaneswar Srinagar Mumbai Mount Abu, Rajasthan New Delhi Mumbai Bijapur, Karnataka
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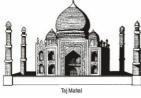
Golden Temple	
Hawa Mahal Howrah Bridge Humayun's Tomb India Gate	Amritsar, Punjab Jaipur, Rajasthan Howrah New Delhi New Delhi
Jagannath Temple Jallianwala	Puri (Orissa) Amritsar, Punjab
Bagh	Delhi
Jama Masjid Jantar Mantar Jog Falls	New Delhi Mysore, Karnataka Mumbai
Juhu Beach Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu Madhya Pradesh

Khajuraho	Mumbai
Kranti Maidan	New Delhi
Lotus Temple	Chennai
Marina Beach	Madurai, Tamil Nadu
Meenakshi	Agra
Temple	Chennai
Moti Masjid	Srinagar
Natraj Temple	New Delhi
Nishat Bagh	Near Ajmer,
Parliament	Rajasthan
House	New Delhi
Pushkar	Delhi
Qutub Minar	Tamil Nadu
Raj Ghat	
Rameshwaram	

Red Fort Rock Garden Sanchi Stupa Sarnath Stupa Science City Shalimar Gardens Somnath Temple Sun Temple Supreme Court Taj Mahal	New Delhi Delhi Chandigarh Sanchi, Near Bhopal Sarnath, Near Varanasi Kolkata Srinagar Gujarat Konark, Orissa New Delhi Agra Andhra Pradesh Kolkata
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## Victoria

### Memorial



# Famous Sites (World)

Site	Location
Angel Falls	
Angkor Vat	Venezuela

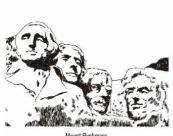
Aswan Dam	Cambodia
Big Ben	Egypt
British Museum	London, UK
Buckingham	London, UK
Palace	London, UK
CN Tower	Toronto, Canada
Colosseum	Rome, Italy
Downing Street	London, UK
Eiffel Tower	Paris, France
Elysee Palace	Paris, France
Empire State	New York, USA
Building	Arizona, USA
Grand Canyon	Australia
Great Barrier	
Reef	

Great Sphinx	Giza, Egypt
Great Wall of	China
China	Pakistan
Harappa	Mecca, Saudi
Kaaba	Arabia
Kailash Parvat	Tibet
Leaning Tower of	Pisa, Italy
Pisa	London
London Bridge	Jakarta, Indonesia
Merdeka Palace	Sindh, Pakistan
Mohenjo-daro	South Dakota, USA
Mount Rushmore	Hawaii Islands,
Pearl Harbour	USA
Pentagon	Washington, DC,
Petronas Twin	USA

Towers	Kuala Lumpur,
Procelain Tower	Malaysia
Pyramids of Giza	Nanking, China
Red Square	Cairo, Egypt
Scotland Yard	Moscow, Russia
Statue of Liberty	London, UK
Stonehenge	New York, USA
Suez Canal	Wiltshire, England
Sydney Opera	<b>Egypt</b> y, Australia
House	Rome, Italy
Vatican City	Zambia
Victoria Falls	Jerusalem, Israel
Wailing Wall	New York, USA
Wall Street	Washington, DC,
White House	USA

### Whitehall

### London, UK





Mount Rushmore

Statue of Liberty

## **India's Superlatives**

Geographical Superlatives	
Largest state	
Smallest state	
	Rajasthan

Most populous	Goa
state	Uttar Pradesh
Least populous	Sikkim
state	Mumbai
Most populous	Thar
city	Sunderbans (Ganga-
Largest desert	Brahmaputra)
Largest delta	Kolleru, Andhra
Largest	Pradesh
freshwater lake	Chilka Lake, Orissa
Largest	Nanga Parbat,
saltwater lake	Kashmir
Highest	Jog Falls, Mysore
mountain peak	Ganga
Highest	Mawsynram
waterfall	(Meghalaya)

Longest river Wettest place Other Superlatives Largest fort Red Fort, Delhi Largest Rashtrapati Bhavan residence Srirangam Temple, Largest temple Tiruchirappalli Largest mosque Jama Masjid, Delhi Largest Golden Temple, gurdwara Amritsar Largest church Se Cathedral, Old Largest Goa covered Yuba Bharati (Salt

Lake)

stadium

Largest indoor	Indira Gandhi Indoor
stadium	Stadium
Largest dome	Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur
Largest prison	Tihar Central Jail,
Largest zoo	New Delhi
Largest	Zoological Garden,
cantilever	Kolkata
bridge	Howrah Bridge
Tallest building	Shreepati Arcade,
Tallest minaret	Mumbai
Highest	Qutub Minar
gateway	Buland Darwaza
Highest dam	Bhakra Nangal Dam,
Longest	Punjab
railway	Kharagpur, West
platform	Bengal

Longest road Longest river Mahatma Gandhi Setu, bridge Patna Fastest train Shatabdi Express

Grand Trunk Road

## World's Superlatives

Geographical Superlatives		
Largest continent		
Smallest		
continent		

freshwater lake	Caspian Sea
Largest saltwater lake	
Saitwater take	
Largest island	Greenland
Largest	Arabia
peninsula	Amazon, Brazil
Largest river	Nile, Egypt
Longest river	Mount Everest,
Highest	Nepal-Tibet
mountain peak	Angel Falls,
Highest	Venezuela
waterfall	Tibet
Highest plateau	Andes, South
Longest	America
mountain range	Dead Sea, Israel-
Lowest point on	

the Earth Deepest point in the oceans	Jordan  Mariana Trench,  Pacific Ocean	
Other Superlatives		
Largest church Bartaning Largest stadium King Airport Tallest Personner Control of the Control o	entagon, Washington, C asilica of St. Peter, atican City rahov Stadium, Prague ang Khalid International arport, Saudi Arabia etronas Twin Towers, uala Lumpur	

Tallest Statue of Liberty, New York statue Longest The Great Wall of China wall TGV Express, France **Fastest** train

# Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

The Seven Wonders of the ancient world were seven outstanding objects that

rest have been destroyed by earthquakes, fire or invaders. These Seven Wonders are arranged here in the order in which they were built.

were built in ancient times. Today, only the pyramids are still standing. All the

## The Pyramids of Egypt

(Giza, Egypt; built from 2700 to 2500 BC)
They were built as royal tombs for the

Egyptian pharoahs. There are many ancient pyramids in Egypt, but the greatest are the three at Giza. The largest of these is the Great Pyramid of Cheops which stands about 146 m high.



### The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

(Iraq; built around 580 BC)

These were spectacular gardens, rising in a series of terraces (rather than hanging). They were built by king Nebuchadnezzar II for his wife. Nothing remains of them.



### The Statue of Zeus at Olympia

(Greece; made around 457 BC)

It was a wooden statue of the king of the gods, Zeus, covered with gold and ivory.

This 12 m high majestic seated figure was created by the sculptor Phidias.



# The Temple of Artemis (or Diana) at Ephesus

(Turkey; built around 400 BC)

It was one of the largest temples in the ancient world built mostly of marble in honour of a Greek goddess, Artemis. Some of its marble columns are in the British Museum in London.



### The Tomb of Mausolus

(Turkey; built around 353 BC)

This was a magnificent tomb of Mausolus, a ruler of Caria, built at Helicarnassus by his widow. It was a very massive tomb of white marble.



#### The Colossus of Rhodes

(Greece; built around 280 BC)

It was a huge, bronze statue of Sun god Helios, stood at the entrance of the harbour of Rhodes. It was about 30 m high.



### The Pharos of Alexanderia

(Egypt; built around 270 BC)

This was the largest lighthouse of the ancient world, built on the island of Pharos in the harbour of Alexandria by Ptolemy II. It was about 135 m tall. It had a wood fire burning on top and its light could be seen 65 km away.



## Museums in India

For the preservation of Indian heritage in the fields of art, sculpture, technology etc., a number of museums have been maintained. Here are some famous museums and the cities in which they are situated:

Sittate a.		
Museum		Location
Allahabad Mus	eum	
Art in Industry Bharat Kala Bh Birla Technol Industrial Muse Calico Textiles	avan logical & eum	Allahabad Kolkata Varanasi Kolkata
Gandhi	Memorial	Ahmedabad
Museum		Madurai

Gallery

Ganga Museum Indian Museum

National

Bikaner

Modern Art	New Delhi
National Museum	
National Museum of Natural History National Sports Museum Prince of Wales Museum	New Delhi Patiala Mumbai
Salar Jung Museum Shankar's International Dolls Museum Victoria Memorial	Hyderabad New Delhi Kolkata Delhi
War Memorial Museum Watson Museum	Rajkot

### **Believe It or Not:**

Sahara desert as fertile land inhabited by a wide variety of animals. The Eiffel Tower in Paris was built

Prehistoric paintings show the

- in 1889 using more than 7,000 tonnes of iron.
- The last 'super volcanic' eruption occurred in April 1815, when Tambora in Indonesia exploded with the eruption column reaching a height of about 28 miles killing

more than 90,000 people.

## **United Nations**

The United Nations is the largest international organization with 193 member countries. It works for world

peace and security and the betterment of

after World War II. As the war drew to an end, the nations that opposed Germany, Italy and Japan decided that such a war must never happen again. Therefore, representatives of these nations worked out a plan for an organization to help keep peace in the world. The name United Nations was proposed by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt

humanity. The United Nations was established on October 24, 1945, shortly

## **UN Headquarters**

The UN headquarters consists of several buildings along the East river in New York city. The three main buildings are Building. The flags of all the member nations fly in front of the UN headquarters.

the General Assembly Building, the Secretariat Building and the Conference

## UN Flag

The white UN emblem is superimposed on a light blue background. The emblem consists of the global map, surrounded by the two olive branches open at the top.



#### Official Languages

The official languages of the UN are — Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. However, the working languages are English and French only. Delegates of different nations may address the General Assembly in any language if they provide a translation into one of the official languages.

### UN Charter

nation that violates the Charter may be suspended or even expelled from the UN. The Charter has 19 chapters divided into 11 articles that explains the purposes and principles of the UN.

Purposes and Principles of UN

The Charter lists four purposes and seven principles of the United Nations:

The four purposes of the United

The Charter of the United Nations is the Constitution of the UN. It includes the plan used for organizing the UN and the rules by which the UN is governed. UN members agree to carry out the requirements of the Charter. A member

- Nations are as follows:

  1. To preserve world peace and security.
- 2. To encourage nations to be just in their actions towards each other.
- 3. To help nations cooperate in trying to solve their problems.
- 4. To serve as an agency through which nations can work towards these goals.

The seven principles of the United Nations are as follows:

- 1. All members have equal rights.
- 2. All members are expected to carry out their duties under the Charter.

- 3. All members agree to the principle of settling their disputes peacefully.
- 4. All members agree not to use force or the threat of force against other nations, except in self-defense.
- 5. All members agree to help the UN in every action it takes to carry out the purposes of the Charter.
- 6. The UN agrees to act on the principle that non-member nations have the same duties as member nations to preserve world peace and security.
- 7. The UN accepts the principle of not interfering in the actions of a member nation within its own borders. But these actions must not hurt other nations.

## The Six Major UN Organs

The Charter sets up the six main organs of the UN and explains the duties, powers and operating methods of each. These organs are:

- 1. General Assembly
- 2. Security Council
- 3. Secretariat
- 4. Economic and Social Council5. International Court of Justice
- 6. Trusteeship Council

Here are the functions in brief of these six major UN organs:

1. The General Assembly is the only major organ of the UN in which all

- members are represented. It controls much of the UN's work and debates major issues of international affairs.

  2. The Security Council has the major
- responsibility in the UN to maintain international peace and security. The Charter gives the council special powers to carry out this responsibility.
- to carry out this responsibility.

  3. The Secretariat manages the day-to-day business of the United Nations. Its main job is to provide services for all

the other UN organs.

4. The Economic and Social Council works to encourage higher standards of living, better health, cultural and educational cooperation among nations and observance of human rights.

handles international legal disputes. The headquarters of the court are at The Hague in the Netherlands.

6. The Trusteeship Council was

5. The International Council of Justice

designed to help a number of territories that were not self-governing at the time the UN was founded. The council suspended its operations in 1994, after the last of the territories gained independence but it still exists under the

UN Charter.

#### **Nobel Prize**

Nobel Prize, named after Alfred Bernhard Nobel, is the most prestigious award in the world. The six Nobel

Prizes are awarded each year to those

economics. The first prizes were awarded in 1901. The Nobel Prize for economics was established by the Swedish National Bank and awarded for the first time in 1969.

The Nobel Prizes are awarded annually on December 10, the death

who, in the opinion of judges, have contributed the most in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, peace and

anniversary of the founder. He left 9 million US dollars to set up the prizes. The interest that this money earns each year is used for the prizes. The value of each of the six prizes is about 1 million US dollars. Besides the cash prize, each

prize is awarded in Oslo, Norway. The other prizes are presented in Stockholm, Sweden.

A candidate may not apply directly for a prize. A qualified person must submit each name in writing. Two or three

people may share a prize. Sometimes, prizes are not awarded or awarded in a

award consists of a gold medal and a diploma bearing a citation. The peace

latter year. The peace prize has been omitted most frequently. For the literary prize, the Swedish Academy considers only works that have appeared in print. The academy usually selects an author for his or her complete work rather than for one book.

Year of institution	1901	
Founder	Alfred Bernhard Nobel	
Awarded on	December 10	
	Physics, Physiology/Medicine, Peace and Economics	Chemistry, Literature,

## Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833–1896) Alfred Bernhard Nobel was a Swedish

inventor and industrialist. He was born in Stockholm in 1833. He invented how to make a safe and manageable

to make a safe and manageable explosive, called dynamite, in 1866. Construction and mining companies

and the military ordered large quantities of dynamite because of its relative safety and explosive power. Nobel set up factories around the world, and sales of dynamite and other explosives brought him great wealth. Within a few years, Nobel became one of the world's richest men.



Nobel was found dead on December 10, 1896 at his desk. Swedes found out

about the Nobel Prizes after his death, when they read his will in which he had donated the annual income from his fortune to support the award. In his will, he ordered that, "The most worthy shall receive the prize, whether he is

Swedish or not."

# Indian Nobel Laureates

## Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) *Literature*, 1913

Offerings), a collection of 103 poems. He was a distinguished poet, dramatist, novelist, painter and philosopher, who founded Shantiniketan.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize in recognition of his work *Gitanjali* (Song



## Sir C.V. Raman (1888–1970)

Physics, 1930

He received the Nobel Prize for his theory relating to the scattering of light, known as 'Raman's Effect'. The theory discovered in 1928 explains the change in the frequency of light passing through a transparent medium.



## Dr. Har Gobind Khorana (1922–1996)

Medicine, 1968

He received the Nobel Prize for interpreting the genetic code and analysing its function in protein synthesis. He shared the Nobel Prize

with two other fellow scientists, Marshall W. Nirenberg and Robert W. Holley.



## Mother Teresa (1910–1997)

Peace, 1979

She was awarded the Nobel Prize for her missionary services. She was born in Yugoslavia and came to Kolkata in 1929, as a missionary. She founded

1929 as a missionary. She founded Missionaries of Charity and served

dying destitutes, lepers and drug addicts.



## Dr. Subramaniam Chandrashekhar (1910–1995)

Physics, 1983

He received the Nobel Prize for his theory on white dwarf stars known as 'Chandrashekhar Limit', which determines the minimum mass of a dying star which enables it to survive. He authored several books on astrophysics.



#### Dr. Amartya Sen (b 1933)

Economics, 1998

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for his theory which relates economics with common man. He has distinguished himself with his outstanding writings on famine, poverty, democracy and social issues.



## **Bharat Ratna**

Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award given in India. It is generally conferred on 23 January each year for

exceptional service towards the

science, and in recognition of public service of the higher order.

The Bharat Ratna medallion is made of bronze and shaped like a pipal leaf.

advancement of art, literature and

The ribbon is white in colour. The award can also be granted posthumously.

Recipients of Bharat Ratna	
	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
1954	C. Rajagopalachari
	Dr. C.V. Raman
	Dr. Bhagwan Das
	Dr. M. Visvesvaraya
	Jawaharlal Nehru

-		
1957	Govind Ballabh Pant	
1958	Dr. D.K. Karve	
1961	Dr. B.C. Roy	
	Purushottam Das Tondon	
1962	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	
1963	Dr. Zakir Husain	
	Dr. P. V. Kane	
1966	Lal Bahadur Shastri*	
1971	Indira Gandhi	
1975	V. V. Giri	
1976	K. Kamraj*	
1980	Mother Teresa	
1983	Acharya Vinobha Bhave*	
1987	Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan	

1988	M.G. Ramachandran*
1990	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar*
	Dr. Nelson Mandela
	Rajiv Gandhi*
1991	Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel*
	Morarji Desai
	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad*
1992	J.R.D. Tata
	Satyajit Ray
	Aruna Asaf Ali*
1997	Gulzari Lal Nanda*
	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
1998	M.S. Subbalakshmi
	Chidambaram Subramaniam

1999	Dr. Amartya Sen
	Gopinath Bordoloi*
2001	<del>Pandit Ravi Shankar</del> Lata Mangeshkar Bismillah Khan
2008	Pandit Bhimsen Joshi

Javaprakash Naravan\*

Note: \*stands for posthumous.

## **National Awards**

#### Arjuna Award

This award is given to a sportsperson who has displayed outstanding performance for three years, both at national and international levels.

#### Aryabhatta Award

This award was instituted by the Astronautics Society of India and is given to a scientist who contributes to the promotion of astronautics in the country.

#### **Bharat Ratna**

It is the highest civilian award in India. It is given for exceptional service towards the advancement of art, literature and science, and in recognition of public service of the highest order.

## Bharatiya Jnanpith Award It is regarded as the highest literary

award in India. It is awarded to outstanding authors of creative literature in any of the Indian languages recognized by the Constitution of India.

#### Bhatnagar Award

This award is given by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in memory of the late Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar for important contribution in any field of science.

#### **Borlaug Award**

This award is given to outstanding

agricultural scientists. It was instituted in honour of the world's renowned wheat scientist Norman E. Borlaug.

This award is conferred by the Government of India for outstanding

### Dada Saheb Phalke Award

contribution to the Indian film industry. The award is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, the father of Indian cinema, who made India's first feature film, *Raja Harishchandra*, in 1913.

#### Dronacharya Award

This award is given to sports coaches who have trained sportspersons or teams making outstanding achievements in the year for which the award is given.

#### Param Vir Chakra

It is the highest gallantry award in India. It is awarded for the most conspicuous bravery, or some act of valour or self-sacrifice, in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

#### Sahitya Akademi Award

This award is given by the Sahitya Akademi for outstanding literary work in Indian languages. The Akademi gives 22 awards to literary works in the Indian languages recognized by it.

### **Inventions**

entor	Cou
ght thers	USA
t	thers

Bicycle	K	Scot
Cinematograph	Macmillan Thomas Alva Edison	USA
Computer	Charles Babbage	Engl
Dynamite	Alfred Bernhard Nobel	Swe
Dynamo	Michael Faraday	Engl
Electric bulb	Thomas Alva Edison	USA
Gramophone	E. Berliner	USA

Helicopter	Sikorsky	USA
Hovercraft	C. Cockerell	Engl
Lift	E.G. Otis	USA
Microphone	E. Berliner	USA
Microscope	Z. Jansen	Neth
Motor car/automobile	Karl Benz	Gerr
Parachute	F. Blanchard	Fran
Pneumatic bicycle tyre	J.B. Dunlop	Scot
Printing press	Johannes Gutenburg	Gerr
	E.	

Radio	Marconi	Italy
Revolver	Samuel Colt	USA
Safety razor	K.C. Gillette	USA
Sewing machine	Elias Howe	USA
Shorthand/Stenography	Sir Isaac Pitman	Engl
Steam engine	James Watt	Scot
Stethoscope	Laennac	Fran
Submarine	David Bushnell	USA
Telegraph	Samuel	USA

	Morse	<u></u>
Telephone	Alexander Graham Bell	USA
Telescope	Galileo Galilei	Italy
Television	John Logie Baird	Scot
Thermometer	G.D. Fahrenheit	Pola
Typewriter	C. Sholes	USA
X-ray machine	Wilhelm Roentgen	Gerr



# **Scientific Discoveries**

Discovery	Discoverer	Country	Year
Blood	William	England	1620
circulation	Harvev	England	1020

Electrons	J.J.	England	1897
Hydrogen	Thomson Henry Cavendish	France	1766
Insulin	Frederick Banting & J.J.R. Macleod	Canada	1921
Law of gravitation	Isaac Newton	England	1666
Laws of motion	Isaac Newton	England	1687
Lightning conductor	Benjamin Franklin	USA	1746
Oxygen	Joseph Priestly	England	1774

	England	1928
Louis Pasteur	France	1860
Marie Curie & Pierre Curie	France	1898
Charles Darwin	England	1859
Albert Einstein	Germany	1905
Edward Jenner	England	1796
C. Funk	Poland	1912
	Fleming Louis Pasteur Marie Curie & Pierre Curie Charles Darwin Albert Einstein Edward Jenner	Fleming Louis Pasteur  Marie Curie & France Curie Charles Darwin  Albert Einstein  Edward Jenner  France

# **discovery:**Invention — the act of creating or

designing something which did not exist

Difference between an invention and a

before e.g. Graham Bell invented telephone.

Discovery — the act of finding out or bringing to light or gaining knowledge of

something, especially for the first time which already existed e.g. Columbus discovered America.

#### **Believe It or Not:**

• Thomas Alva Edison obtained 1,093 United States patents, the most the

- US patent office has ever issued to one person. Astronauts become a little taller in space! Because there is less gravity,
- so their bones are less squashed together. Atomic clocks are accurate to 0.001
- seconds in 1,000 years. Since 1967, the world's time has been set by atomic clocks.

# **Scientific Instruments**

**Altimeter** — used especially in an aircraft for measuring altitude (the height above sea level).

Amplifier — used for amplifying sound

or radio signals. **Anemometer** — used for measuring the velocity and force of wind.

**Audiometer** — used for measuring the intensity of sound.

Barometer — used for measuring atmospheric pressure.Binoculars — used for seeing distant

objects.

Cardiograph — used for recording

Cardiograph — used for recording movements of the heart.

Compass — used for finding direction.

**Dynamo** — used for converting mechanical energy into electrical energy.

Endoscope — used for viewing the internal organs of a body.

Lactometer — used for determining the purity of milk.

Microphone — used for changing sound

**Hygrometer** — used for measuring

humidity in atmosphere.

waves into electrical signals. **Microscope** — used for looking very small objects which cannot be seen with

the naked eye. **Odometer** — used for measuring the distance travelled by a vehicle.

**Periscope** — used especially in a submarine for seeing objects above the sea level.

**Photometer** — used for measuring the luminous intensity of a source of light.

enlarged image of a photograph or a film onto a screen. **Radar** — used for detecting the direction and range of an approaching

**Projector** — used for presenting an

Rain gauge — used for measuring the amount of rainfall.

Seismograph — used for recording and measuring earthquakes.

aircraft

**Sextant** — used for measuring the angle of elevation of an object, usually a high building, mountain or heavenly body, in order to find its distance and height.

**Speedometer** — used for measuring the speed of a vehicle.

measuring blood pressure. **Stethoscope** — used by a doctor for examining the movements of heart and

**Sphygmomanometer** — used for

lungs.

Telescope — used for observing

heavenly bodies. **Transformer** — used for increasing or reducing the voltage.

**Transponder** — used for receiving signals and transmitting them

signals and transmitting them immediately by its own.



## **Branches of Science**

**Acoustics** — deals with the study of sound.

**Aeronautics** — deals with the study or practice of constructing and flying

**Anatomy** — deals with the study of the internal parts of living organisms.

aircraft

**Astronomy** — deals with the study of the heavenly bodies such as the Sun,

**Biology** — deals with the study of the

Moon, stars, planets, etc.

living things. **Botany** — deals with the study of plants. **Chemistry** — deals with the study of the

composition of substances and laws of their combination, etc.

Cosmology — deals with the study of the universe — its origin, nature,

structure, evolution and development.

Entomology — deals with the study of insects.Genetics — deals with the study of the ways in which different characteristics

are passed from one generation of living

**Ecology** — deals with the study of the relationship between living organisms

and their environment.

organisms to the next.

Geology — deals with the study of the Earth — its origin, structure, composition, etc.

**Hydrology** — deals with the study of the occurrence and distribution of water — underground, in oceans and in the atmosphere.

Meteorology — deals with the study of

the earth's atmosphere and its changes, used especially for forecasting weather.

Morphology — deals with the study of the form and external structure of living

Optics — deals with the study of light.

Ornithology — deals with the study of

organisms.

birds. **Pharmacology** — deals with the study of medicines and their uses.

**Physics** — deals with the study of matter, force and energy, e.g. heat, light, sound, gravity, etc.

sound, gravity, etc. **Psychiatry** — deals with the study, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of mental disorders.

Psychology — deals with the study of the mind and behaviour of humans and animals.

Seismology — deals with the study of

earthquakes. **Zoology** — deals with the study of

animals.

### The Planets

The word 'planet' comes from the Greek word *planetes* meaning 'wanderer'. Our Solar System has eight planets. Here is the important data about these planets:

Planet	Mean distance from the Sun (million km)	Equatorial diameter (km)	Period of revolution round the Sun
Mercury	57.9	4,879	88 days
Venus	108.2	12,100	224.7 days
Earth	149.6	12,756	365.26 days
Mars	227.9	6,796	687 days
Jupiter	778.4	142,800	11.86 years

Neptune	4,504.3	49,500	164.79 years	
Note: The data given here is as per NASA's website. Some planets also have many smaller satellites or moons.				
Importar • Large		— Juniter		

Smallest planet — Mercury

• Planet nearest to the Sun — Mercury

120,000

51,000

84 years

1,429.4

2,875.0

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune
• Hottest and brightest planet — Venus
• Coldest planet — Uranus

• Planet farthest from the Sun

- Longest days Mercury
  - Shortest days Jupiter
  - Saturn is the only planet which has rings around it.
  - Jupiter is twice the size of all the other planets put together.Mars is also called the 'red planet'
- because its soil and rocks are red.



### **Body Facts**

- Liver is the largest organ in our body, weighing about 1.6 kg.
- Each day our heart beats normally over 1,00,000 times.

is 37oC or 98oF.

• There are 206 bones in our skeleton.

• The normal temperature of our body

- A new-born baby has 300 bones, out of which 94 bones join together as he or she grows.
- Most people have 12 pairs of ribs. But one out of every 20 people has at least one extra pair.
- An average man has about 5.5 liters of blood.
- Each side of the brain controls the opposite side of the body.
- The hair on our head usually lives for 2-6 years before dropping out.
- The fastest muscles in our body are

- those that blink the eyelids. We can blink as fast as 200 times per minute.Our eyelids have the thinnest skin on
- our body (only 1 mm thick) while our soles have the thickest skin (about 3 mm thick).

   It takes about 17 muscles to smile,
  - The size and shape of a person's nose can affect his or her voice.
    The coronary heart disease is the

but about 43 to frown.

- most common cause of sudden death.One brain cell may be connected to
- as many as 25,000 other brain cells.

- A meal takes as long as 15 hours to pass through our whole digestive system.
  Through blinking we spend about
- Through blinking we spend about half an hour of our waking day with our eyes closed.
- The thigh bone, called *femur*, is the longest and the largest bone in our body. The smallest bone is the *stirrup* bone in the middle ear.

### **Vitamins**

Here is a brief description about the functions of all important vitamins, diseases caused due to their deficiencies and their sources:

	Functions	Deficiency symptoms
Vitamin A	and the growth of children; especially needed for	blindness; poor growth, rough and dry skin; xerophthalmia, in which the surface of the eyes becomes

	healthy.	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Like vitamin A, this vitamin is also needed for growth; our body also needs it to change carbohydrates into energy.	disease of the nervous
Vitamin B2	growth and for healthy skin and eyes; promotes the	Cracks in the skin at the corners of the mouth; scaly skin around the nose and ears;

	oxygen in converting food into energy.	1
Vitamin B12	functioning of an another vitamin called folic acid; they both are needed to produce DNA.	A deficiency of either of these vitamins causes anaemia; lack of vitamin B12 also damages the nervous system.
	Essential for healthy blood	

\	/i	ta (	om C	ni
_	70			

in teeth; also which bleeding helps to form occurs under collagen, a the skin, protein that around teeth holds tissues and bones. together. Helps in absorption and

Rickets, a metabolism | disease of calcium which bones lfail to harden land D phosphorus sufficiently and and thus become bent. assists in

vessels, | Scurvy, a bones and disease in

in

Vitamin E	irole in	Deficiency of vitamin E occurs rarely and produces few symptoms.
Vitamin K	Essential for blood clotting.	Delay in blood clotting.

body growth.

# Diseases and Human Body

Here are the names of some diseases and parts of the human body affected by

them:

Diseases	Parts of the human body affected
AIDS	Immune system of the body
Arthritis	Joints
Asthma	Bronchial muscles
Cataract	Eyes
Dermatitis	Skin
Diabetes	Pancreas, Blood
Diphtheria	Throat
Eczema	Skin
Goitre	Thyroid gland
Jaundice	Liver

### Believe It or Not:

- Through blinking we spend about half an hour of our waking day with our eyes closed.
- The fastest muscles in our body are those that blink our eyelids. Although we normally blink without thinking but we can blink up to 200 times a minute.

# **Festivals of India**

Here are some important festivals of India with their brief descriptions:

#### Baisakhi

Basant Panchmi

A harvest festival of Punjab.

#### A Cartinal and

A festival marking the beginning of spring; celebrated in February.

#### **Buddh Poornima**

A festival celebrating the birth anniversary of Lord Buddha.

#### Christmas

A festival celebrating the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ, occurs on 25th December.

## Dashera

the victory of Rama (the Good) over Ravana (the Evil).

A festival celebrated to commemorate

#### Diwali (also Deepawali)

A festival of lights, held in October or November, celebrated to commemorate the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile.

#### Easter

A festival celebrating the resurrection (a rising from the dead) of Jesus Christ that occurs on a Sunday in March or April.

#### Eid Milad-un-Nabi

and death anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

A Muslim festival to observe the birth

### Eid-ul-Fitr

A Muslim festival, the 'Feast of Breaking Fast', held on the first day after the month of Ramzan.

#### Eid-ul-Zuha (also Baqraeid)

A Muslim festival, the 'Feast of Sacrifice', celebrated to show the intention of 'Kurbani' (sacrifice) in the name of God.

### **Good Friday**

Christians as the day of crucifixion (killing by fastening to a cross with nails) of Jesus Christ.

A Friday before Easter, remembered by

# Guruparv A fostiv

A festival celebrating the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.

#### Holi

A festival of colours, held in March, marking the end of winter.

#### Janmashtmi

A festival celebrating the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna.

#### Mahavir Jayanti

A festival celebrating the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira.

#### Muharram

A Muslim festival, observed in the memory of the martyrdom of Hasan and Husain, the grandsons of Prophet Muhammad.

#### Navroz (also Nowroj)

A Parsi festival celebrated on the first day of the Parsi new year.

#### Onam

which boat races are held). **Pongal** 

A harvest festival of Kerala (during

A harvest festival celebrated in many parts of South India (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, etc.)

#### Raksha Bandhan

A festival in which sisters tie rakhis on their brothers' wrists and pray for them. Brothers promise them to provide security and support.

Ram Navmi A festival celebrating the birth



## **Major Religions**

BUDDHISM		
Founder	Gautam Siddhartha Buddha (563–483 BC), born in Lumbini, Nepal	

Date founded	500 BC, India	
Sacred text	The <i>Tripitaka</i> (a collection of Buddha's teachings)	
Places of worship	Vihar (Temple) and Monastery (where monks reside)	
Sects	Mahayana and Hinayana	
Sacred places	Lumbini (Nepal) where Buddha was born, Bodh Gaya (Bihar) where he received Enlightenment and Kusinagar (UP) where he attained 'Nirvana'.	
	China, Tibet, Korea, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Myanmar,	

Followed in	Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Cambodia, Taiwan, Indonesia and Vietnam		
	CHRISTIANITY		
Founder	Jesus Christ (4 BC–AD 30), born in Bethlehem, also called Jesus of Nazareth		
Date founded	1st AD		
Sacred text	Holy Bible consisting of the Old Testament (before Christ) and the New Testament (during and after Christ)		
Place of			

worship	Church	
Sects	Catholics and Protestants	
Sacred place	Jerusalem where Christ lived and preached	
Followed in	Spread all over the world	
HINDUISM		
Founder	Of divine origin	
Date founded	1500 BC, India	
Sacred texts	The <i>Vedas</i> , the <i>Upanishads</i> , the <i>Bhagavadgita</i> and the epics of the <i>Mahabharata</i> and the <i>Ramayana</i>	

Place of worship	Mandir (Temple)	
Sacred places	Ayodhya, Mathura, Amarnath, Hardwar, Varanasi, Tirupati, Puri, Rameshwaram, Kedarnath, etc.	
Followed in	Concentrated in India and Nepal and also in Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Guyana and Trinidad	
ISLAM		
Founder	Prophet Muhammad (AD 570–632), born in Mecca,	

	Saudi Arabia	
Date founded	7th AD, Arabian Peninsula	
Sacred texts	The <i>Qur'an</i> (words of God), the <i>Hadis</i> (collection of Prophet's sayings)	
Place of worship	Masjid (Mosque)	
Sects	Sunnis and Shias	
Sacred places	Mecca and Medina	
Followed in	Spread all over the world	
JAINISM		

Founder	Vardhamana Mahavira (599–527 BC), born in Kunda near Vaishali, India	
Date founded	600 BC, India	
Sacred text	No specific text	
Place of worship	Temple	
Sacred place	Kunda near Vaishali, India	
Followed in	Mainly concentrated in India	
JUDAISM		

Founder	Abraham (2000 BC) and Moses (1200 BC), born in Egypt
Date founded	2000 BC
Sacred texts	The <i>Hals</i> , found particularly in the five books of the Bible; commentary on <i>Torah</i> known as <i>Talmud</i> and <i>Midrash</i>
Place of worship	Synagogue
Sacred place	Jerusalem
Followed in	Worldwide with concentration in Israel and

SIKHISM

Guru Nanak (1469–1539),
born in Talwandi village,
now in Pakistan

Date
founded

1500 AD

United States

Sacred text
The Guru Granth Sahib
Place of worship
Sacred
Sacred

place

Followed

India

Golden Temple, Amritsar

ZOROASTRIANISM (PARSI RELIGION)		
ninaer	Zoroaster (600 BC), born in Iran	

Fo

Date 600 BC, Iran founded

Place of Fire Temple worship

Followed in

Sacred text The Zend Avesta

Iran and north-west India

# **Important Days**

National	
Armed Forces Flag Day Children's Day	December 7 November 14

Gandhi Jayanti	October 2	
Independence Day	August 15	
Jallianwala Bagh Day	April 13	
Kisan Divas (Farmer's	December	
Day)	23	
Martyrs' Day	January 30	
National Integration Day	October 31	
National Science Day	February 28	
Republic Day	January 26	
Teachers' Day	September 5	
	•	
International		
Earth Day	April 22	
Human Rights Day	December	
International Labour Day	10	

Red Cross Day	October 24		
UN Day	December 1		
World AIDS Day	June 5		
World Environment Day	April 7		
World Health Day	May 31		
World No Tobacco Day	July 11		
World Population Day	July 11		
Believe It or Not:			
• With no wind or rain, the footprints			
- with no wind of fam, the lootprints			

May 1

March 8

May 8

September 8

International Literacy

International Women's

Day

- made by the astronauts will remain on the Moon forever.The heaviest hailstones on record
- weighed up to 1 kg and are reported to have killed 92 people in the Gopalganj area of Bangladesh on April 14, 1986.

# Important events in Indian History

1526 — First Battle of Panipat1556 — Second Battle of Panipat

1576 — Battle of Haldighati — Rana
Pratap defeated by Akbar
1600 — East India Company established
in India
1761 — Third Battle of Panipat
1853 — First railway line opened in
India between Bombay and Thane
1857 — First War of Independence
1885 — Indian National Congress
founded by A.O. Hume
1905 — Partition of Bengal
1911 — Capital of India transferred
from Calcutta to Delhi
1919 — Jallianwala Bagh massacre at
Amritsar (April 13)
1042 Indian National Army organized
1943 — Indian National Army organized

by Subhash Chandra Bose at Singapore; Bengal famine 1947 — India became Independent; Partition of India 1948 — Mahatma Gandhi assassinated by Nathuram Vinayak Godse (Jan. 30) 1950 — India became a Republic (Jan. 26) 1952 — First General Elections held 1962 — Indo-China War 1965 — First Indo-Pak War 1971 — Second Indo-Pak War; Birth of Bangladesh 1972 — Shimla Agreement signed between India and Pakistan 1974 — First underground nuclear test

1975 — First Indian satellite, Aryabhatta, launched (April 19); Emergency declared in the country (June 26) 1983 — India won the Cricket World Cup 1984 — First Indian, Rakesh Sharma, went into the space; Indira Gandhi assassinated 1991 — Rajiv Gandhi assassinated 1998 — Five underground nuclear tests conducted at Pokhran 2003 — Kalpana Chawla died with other six crew members in the Columbia Space Shuttle explosion (Feb. 1)

conducted at Pokhran, Rajasthan

# 2007 — India won the inaugural ICC World Twenty20 tournament at Johannesburg

# Important events in World History

563 BC — Birth of Lord Buddha

4 BC — Birth of Jesus Christ

5/0 AD — Birth of Prophet Munammad	
1492 — Columbus discovered America	
1564 — Birth of William Shakespeare	
1783 — USA became independent	
1789 — French Revolution	
1837 — Accession of Queen Victoria to	
the throne of England	
1865 — Abraham Lincoln assassinated	
1896 — Olympic Games revived in	
Athens	
1901 — Nobel Prize first awarded	
1903 — Wright Brothers make their first	
flight	

1904 — FIFA founded in Paris

1914–18 — World War I

1917 — Russian Revolution
1920 — League of Nations founded
1939–45 — World War II
1941 — Japan attacked Pearl Harbour
1945 — First atom bomb dropped on
Hiroshima (Aug. 6);
Second atom bomb dropped on
Nagasaki (Aug. 9);
UNO founded (Oct. 24)
1957 — First man-made satellite,
Sputnik I, launched by the former
USSR
1961 — First man, Yuri Gagarin, went
into the space
1967 — First human heart transplant
operation conducted by Christiaan

Barnard 1969 — US astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, landed on the Moon 1981 — First reports of AIDS 1983 — IBM launched personal computer (PC) 1990 — Nelson Mandela freed from prison after 27 years;

West and East Germany united 1991 — USSR disintegrated into 15 Republics 1997 — Hong Kong returned to China after 99 years of British rule

2001 — Terrorist attacks on America

(Sep. 11)

- 2002 'Euro' becomes the official currency of twelve European countries
- 2008 Barack Obama elected the 44th President of United States



Wright Brothers' first flight

# Fictional Characters and their Creators

Here are some famous fictional characters and their creators :

Character	Creator
Adam	
Adam Alice Chacha Chaudhary David Copperfield Dr. Zhivago Gora Gulliver Hamid Hamlet Harry Poter Huckleberry Finn	John Milton Lewis Carroll Pran Charles Dickens Boris Pasternak Rabindranath Tagore Jonathan Swift Premchand William Shakespeare J.K. Rowling Mark Twain Ian Fleming
	Walt Disney

Mickey Mouse	
J	Rudyard Kipling
Romeo	William Shakespeare
Shakuntala	Kalidas
Sherlock	Sir Arthur Conan
Holmes	Doyle

## **Believe It or Not:**

different birds.

James Bond

- The dragon in China is a symbol of good luck. They think that dragons
  - bring prosperity and good fortune.A bird known as mocking bird, can imitate the songs of about forty

- The world's largest leaves are those of the Raffia palm, which grow up to 20 m long.
  The United States Library of
- Congress contains more than 86 million items. It is the largest library in the world.

#### **66.**

## **Defining Places**

**Apiary** — a place where bees are kept.

**Arsenal** — a place where weapons and explosives are made or stored.

Asylum — a hospital for the care of

**Aviary** — a large cage or building where birds are kept.

mentally ill people.

**Barracks** — a large building or a group of buildings where soldiers live. **Brewery** — a building in which beer is

made.

Cafe — a small restaurant serving

Castle — a large building with thick walls, towers, etc. for defence.

Cloakroom — a room for keeping

meals and drinks at a cheap rate.

luggage at a railway station or in any public building.

Convent — a building in which nuns

Convent — a building in which nun live.

looked after while their parents work, shop, etc.

Crematory — a place where dead people are burnt.

Creche — a place where babies are

Dockyard — a place where ships are built and repaired.Dormitory — a room or hall for several

people to sleep in, especially in a school, hotel or other institution.

Galley — a kitchen in a ship or an

Galley — a kitchen in a ship or an aircraft.

Hangar — a large shed in which

aircraft are kept. **Harbour** — an area of water in which ships can take shelter.

**Laboratory** — a room or building used for scientific experiments, testing, research, etc.

**Kiln** — a place where bricks are made.

Mess — a building or room in which members of a hostel or the armed forces have their meals.

Mint — a place where money is coined.

**Mortuary** — a room or building in the hospital used for the temporary storage of dead bodies.

Motel — a hotel for motorists, with space for parking cars near the rooms.

Orchard — a piece of land, usually

enclosed, in which fruit trees are grown. **Pantry** — a small room or large

cupboard close to a kitchen, for keeping food, etc. in.

**Pavilion** — a building next to a sports ground where players sit during a match.

**Ward** — a separate part or room in a hospital for a particular group of patients.



#### **67.**

## **Different Subjects**

**Anthropology** — the study of the human beings, especially their origins, developments, customs and beliefs.

Archaeology — the study of ancient

by scientific analysis of their material remains. **Astrology** — the study of the positions and movements of the stars and planets

cultures, people and periods of history

in the belief that they influence human affairs. Cartography — the art of drawing maps and charts.

**Chronology** — the art of arranging dates of historical events in the order in which they occurred.

**Demography** — the study of the population, especially with reference to its size, distribution, rate of birth, death, diseases, etc.

**Economics** — the study of the principles

income. **Geography** — the study of the earth's surface, its physical features, divisions, climate, products, population, etc.

of production and distribution of goods, the creation of wealth, and national

editing dictionaries. **Numismatics** — the study and collection of cions and medals.

**Lexicography** — the art of writing and

Philately — the study and collection of postage stamps.
Philology — the study of the historical development of languages or a particular.

development of languages or a particular language. **Phonetics** — the study of speech

sounds, their pronunciation and their

**Telepathy** — the art of communication of thoughts or feelings from one mind to another without the normal use of the

**Theology** — the study of the nature of God and of the foundations of religious belief.

### **Believe It or Not:**

production.

senses.

- It is impossible to sneeze and keep your eyes open at the same time.
- The tsunami waves move at over 700 km/h and can be up to 30 m high.

 The Moon is moving slowly away from the Earth at the rate of an inch per year.

## **68.**

## **Professionals**

**Astrologer** — a person who predicts future from the study of the positions of the stars and the movements of the planets.

**Blacksmith** — a person who makes and repairs things made of iron. **Broker** — a person who acts as a

**Butcher** — a person who sells meat or kills animals for this.

**Cartographer** — a person who draws

middleman in bargains.

maps and charts. **Choreographer**— a person who

arranges the steps and movements in dances. **Confectioner** — a person who makes

and sells sweets, cakes, pastries, etc.

**Florist** — a person who sells flowers.

**Draper** — a person who sells clothes.

Goldsmith — a person who makes

packets and general small household goods.

**Grocer** — a person who sells food in

articles of gold.

and edits dictionaries.

races. **Lexicographer** — a person who writes

**Jockey** — a person who rides in horse

Lyricist — a person who writes the words of songs.

Mason — a person who builds stone

**Mason** — a person who builds stone houses.

**Optician** — a person who makes and sells spectacles, contact lenses and other optical goods.

**Plumber** — a person who fits or repairs

**Porter** — a person who carries people's luggage and other loads.

pipes and taps.

Publisher — a person who publishes books, newspapers, magazines, etc.
 Retailer — a shopkeeper who sells

goods in small quantities to the general public.

Sculptor — a person who makes figures

or objects by carving wood or stones, shaping clay, etc.

Surgeon — a doctor who performs

medical operations. **Tanner** — a person who makes animal skin into leather by treating it with chemicals.

**Teller** — a cashier who pays out money especially in a bank.

**Undertaker** — a person who arranges funerals.

**Veterinarian** — a doctor who treats animal diseases and injuries.

**Vintner** — a person who sells wines.



### **69.**

## **Important Terms**

**Affidavit** — a written statement made on oath before an authority, that can be used as evidence in court.

Ambassador — a person who lives in a

or her own country. **Atheist** — a person who does not believe in the existence of God.

**Auction** — a public event at which

foreign country and represents there his

things are sold to the person who offers the most money for them. **Ballot** — a system of secret voting.

**Bankrupt** — a person who is unable to pay his or her debts, whose property is then taken by the court and used to repay those debts.

Bibliophile — a person who loves and collects books.

Brain Drain — the loss of a country

when skilled and intelligent people leave it to go and live in other countries

Calligraphy — an art of beautiful handwriting.

for better opportunities.

Capital punishment — a punishment of death.

Catalogue — a complete list of items, e.g. books, etc.

Census — the official counting of a country's population.

Coalition — a temporary union of

separate political parties, usually in order to form a government.

Copyright — an exclusive legal right, held for certain years, to print, publish, sell, broadcast, film or record an

original work or any part of it.

civilians to stay indoors for a specific period. **Epicure** — a person fond of food and drink of high quality.

Curfew — an official order for the

Extravagant — a person who spends money unnecessarily.

Fourth State — a term that is applied to

the press, e.g. newspapers, journalists, etc. **Honorary** — a post or a person which is not paid or a degree given as an honour, without the usual qualification

**Ledger** — a book in which a bank, business firm, etc. records its accounts.

being required.

use something. **Lullaby** — a soft gentle song sung to make a child go to sleep. **Manifesto** — declaration of principles

**Licence** — a written permission from the government to carry out a trade or

eve of a general election. **Manuscript** — a paper or a document, especially an author's work when it is written by hand or typed.

and policies by a political party on the

**Massacre** — the killing of a large number of human beings. Migration — moving from one place to

another to live or to work. **Monarchy** — a system of government

**Obituary** — notification of a person's death, especially in a newspaper, often with a short account of his or her life

and achievements.

where the king or the queen is the head.

Optimist — a person who is always hopeful and looks only on the bright side of a thing.

Ornhan — a child whose parents are

Orphan — a child whose parents are dead.

Paparazzi iournalists or

**Paparazzi** — journalists or photographers who follow famous people around in order to get interesting

stories and photographs. **Passbook** — a book provided by the bank which contains the record of a customer's account.

the holder the sole right to make, use or sell an invention and preventing others from copying it. **Pessimist** — a person who is always disappointed and looks only on the dark side of a thing.

**Patent** — an official document giving

cassettes, CDs, etc. **Post-mortem** — a medical examination of a person's body made after his or her death in order to find the cause of death.

**Piracy** — illegal copying of books,

Prospectus — a printed document or a thin book that gives details about a course, school, college, business, etc.

Quack — a person who dishonestly claims to have special knowledge and

**Refugee** — a person who has been forced to leave his or her country for political or religious reasons and takes shelter in a foreign country.

skill, especially in medicine.

which there is an elected president, but no king or queen.

Royalty — the percentage to which a

**Republic** — a system of government in

writer, illustrator or musician is entitled on the sale of a book, painting, or a musical composition.

Sovereign — a fully independent nation

or state with complete freedom to govern itself.

Summons — an order to a person to

**Summons** — an order to a person to appear in a law court at a specific time.

**Universal** — a law, theory, etc. which is applicable to all or same anywhere. **Veteran** — a person who has a long

**Theist** — a person who believes in the

existence of God.

experience in any profession. **Volunteer** — a person who does something or offers service, of his or her

own will.

Warrant — a written order from a court, giving the police authority to arrest someone or to search a place.

White Elephant — a possession or a thing that is useless and often expensive to maintain.

Will — a legal document in which a

person states how he or she wants his or her property and money to be disposed of after his or her death.



Calligraphy

#### 70.

# World Records held by India(ns)

 Lata Mangeshkar has the world record for maximum number of song  Santosh Yadav is the only woman in the world to have climbed Mount

recordings to her credit.

- Everest twice. Captain Durba Banerjee is the only woman pilot in the world with most
- flying hours (18,500 flying hours between 1959-88). Dr. M.C. Modi has the world record for performing the most eye
- operations to his credit. He has performed about 5,95,000 eye operations between 1943 and 1997. Gul Muhammad (1957–97), a resident of Ballimaran, Delhi, was the shortest man in the world. He

was 22.5 inches (57.2 cm) tall and

 Zero was first used in India. Brahmagupta (598-660 AD) was the first mathematician to treat zero

weighed 17 kg.

- as a number. There are about 325 languages and dialects being used in India, much more than any other country.
- Tamil is the oldest of all Indian languages and also the oldest living language in the world.
- The Constitution of India is the longest in the world. It has 395 Articles and 12 Schedules. • India tops the world in film production. More than 800 films a year are made in India.

population. There are over 80 million draught animals in India.India has the largest postal network

India leads the world in cattle

- in the world. It has 1,53,454 post offices of which 89% are in the rural areas.

  The State Peak of India has the
- The State Bank of India has the maximum number of branches. It has over 9,000 branches with 51 foreign offices in 31 countries.
- offices in 31 countries.
  The Hero Cycles Ltd. is the largest manufacturer of bicycles in the world. The company was started with a capacity of 25 bicycles per day and today it has a production capacity of 19,500 bicycles per day

- at two units.Mawsynram in Meghalaya, with an
- inches, is the wettest place in the world, closely followed by Cherrapunjee with 450 inches of rainfall per year.
  Shankar's International Dolls Museum in New Delhi has the

largest collection of costume dolls in the world. It has over 6,000 dolls from 80 countries and all of them

average annual rainfall of 467

are dressed in the traditional costumes of their countries.
India is the largest producer of milk in the world. Its annual production of milk is over 70 million tonnes.

the world. 30% of the world's output is produced in India.
India leads the world in mango production. Its annual production of 10 million metric tonnes accounts

• India is the largest producer of tea in

for 65% of the world production.India's annual spice production of 2.5 million tonnes accounts for

about 33% of the world production.

- The 833 m long Kharagpur Railway Platform in West Bengal is the longest railway platform in the world.
- The Sunderbans (Ganga-Brahmputra)
  Delta in West Bengal and
  Bangladesh is the largest delta in the

- world. It covers an area of 75,000 sq. km.
   The Siachen Glacier on the Indo-Pak
- border is the world's longest glacier. It is 75.6 km long and 2.8 km broad. It is also the highest battle ground in the world.
- The 1,220 m long corridor of the Ramanathaswamy Temple at Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu is the longest corridor in the world. It has
- 983 richly carved pillars.The Khardungla Road in Leh-Manali sector at a height of 5,682 m is the
- highest motorable road in the world.

   The Leh Airport in Ladakh at a height of 3,256 m is the highest non-

military airport in the world.

• The 'Samrat Yantra', built by Sawai Jai Singh II at Jaipur in 1728, is the biggest sundial in the world. It is 27.4 m tall.



Lata Mangeshkar

#### 71.

# Newspapers and Periodicals

Here are some important facts about Indian newspapers and periodicals:

# First Newspaper of India

Bengal Gazette, published from Kolkata in 1780. It was a weekly brought out on Saturdays by James Augustus Hickey.

#### **Oldest Existing Newspaper**

Mumbai Samachar, started in 1822. This Gujarati daily, published from Mumbai is the oldest daily of Asia.

# **Oldest existing English Daily**

The Times of India, started in 1838 from Mumbai.

#### **Oldest Magazine**

Number of Daily Newspapers

Calcutta Review in English since 1844.

More than 5,000 daily newspapers are published in India in about 100 languages and dialects.

Most Newspapers in a Language

The highest number of newspapers are published in Hindi (about 2,200 dailies).

Most Newspapers from a State

Uttar Pradesh, with 8,400 newspapers including 810 dailies.

**Largest Selling Daily** 

editions in English. It has a circulation of 21,52,000.

The Times of India, having twelve

# Largest Selling Periodical Saras Salil, a Hindi fortnightly,

published from New Delhi. It has a circulation of 11,01,600 copies.

#### **Most Editions of a Daily**

The Indian Express, published from 18 centres.

### First Financial Daily

The Economic Times, launched by the Times Group in 1961.

#### **Longest Running Cartoon**

R.K. Laxman's cartoon 'You Said It' featuring the common man has been appearing regularly in The Times of India since 1951.

# **Oldest Existing Children's Magazine**Chandamama, started in July 1947 from

Chennai by B. Vishwanath Reddy. It is now published in 12 languages.

# Only Children's Magazine in Braille

Chandamama started a special version in Braille in 1981. It is currently a quarterly, combining three issues of

monthly.

News Ngencies

ordinary Chandamama which is a

# Press Trust of India (PTI), started in

1947; United News of India (UNI), started in 1961.

#### **72.**

# The Top 5

Largest Continents		
Continent	Approx. area (sq. km)	

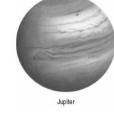
<ol> <li>Asia</li> <li>Africa</li> <li>North</li> <li>America</li> <li>South</li> <li>America</li> <li>Antarctica</li> </ol>	4,44,93,000 3,02,93,000 2,44,54,000 1,78,38,000 1,42,00,000			
Large	Largest Oceans			
Ocean	Approx. area (sq. km)			
1. Pacific Ocean				
2. Atlantic	16,62,40,000			
Ocean	8,22,17,000			
3. Indian Ocean	7,34,26,000			

4. So	4. Southern		2,03,27,000
Ocean			1,39,86,000
5. Arctic C	cean		
Larges	t Countr	ies	
Country	Area (sq	. <i>km)</i>	
1. Russia	1,70,7	5,400	
2. Canada	99,70,537		
3. China	95,96,961		
4. USA	93,72,614		
5. Brazil	85,11,965		
-	1		1
	Large	st Sea	ıs
Sea		App	orox. area (sq. km)

<ol> <li>Coral Sea</li> <li>Arabian Sea</li> <li>South China Sea</li> <li>Caribbean Sea</li> <li>Mediterrand Sea</li> </ol>	ean	3 3 2 2	7,91,000 8,64,000 6,86,000 7,53,000 5,15,000
Smallest Countries		ntries	
Country	Are	a (sq. km)	
1. Vatican City		0.44	
2. Monaco		1.95	
3. Nauru		21.23	
4. Tuvalu		26.00	
5. San Marino		61.00	

	S
Planet	Max. diameter (km)
1. Jupiter	1,42,800
2. Saturn	1,20,000
3. Uranus	51,000
4. Neptune	49,500
5. Earth	12,756

**Largest Planets** 



# Countries with the Highest Population

Country	Estimated pop	oulation (2009)		
<ol> <li>China</li> <li>India</li> <li>USA</li> <li>Indonesia</li> <li>Brazil</li> </ol>	1,14,79 30,38 23,75	0,44,000 0,95,000 8,24,000 5,12,000 0,08,000		
Organized Religions				
Religion	Followers			
1. Christiani	ty 2,13,00,00,000			
2. Islam	1,51,00,00,000			
3. Hinduism	90,70,00,000			

4. Buddhism	38,75,00,000	
5. Judaism	2,13,50,000	
High	nest Mountains	
Mountain	Location	Height (m)
	Nepal-	

8,850

8,611

8,598

8,501

8,470

Tibet Everest Kashmir-2. K 2 (Godwin-Austen) Nepal-3. Kanchenjunga Sikkim

4. Lhotse Nepal-Tibet 5. Makalu Nepal-Tibet



Largest Human Organs				
Organ			Average weight (g)	
1. Liver		-	1,560	
2. Brain	m	ale	1,410	
	fe	male	1,265	
3. Lungs	ri	ght	580	
	le	ft	510	

	total		1,090		
4. Heart	male		315		
	female		265		
5. Kidney	left		150		
	right		140		
	total		290		
	Largest Deserts				
Desert	Location		Approx. area (sq. km)		
1. Sahara 2. Arabian 3. Gobi 4.	North Africa Southwest Asia Mongolia-		90,00,000 23,30,000 12,95,000		

Patagonian China  5. Great Argentina Basin Southwest USA	6,73,000 4,92,000			
Longest Riv	Longest Rivers			
River	Length (km)			
<ol> <li>Nile (Tanzania, Ugand Sudan, Egypt)</li> <li>Amazon (Brazil)</li> <li>Yangtze Kiang (China)</li> <li>Mississippi-Missouri- Rock (USA)</li> <li>Yenisey-Angara-Selend</li> </ol>	6,670 6,450 6,300 5,970			

(Russia)		
	Largest Lake	es
Lake	Location	Approx. area (sq. km)
1. Caspian Sea 2. Superior 3. Victoria 4. Aral Sea 5. Huron	Iran-Rep. of former USSR USA-Canada Kenya-Tanzania-Uganda Kazakhstan USA-Canada	3,71,000 82,350 69,500 65,500 59,600

Hi	ghest W	at	erfalls		
Waterfall	River		Location	Dr (	o m
<ol> <li>Angel</li> <li>Tugela</li> <li>Utigard</li> <li>Mongefossen</li> <li>Yosemite</li> </ol>	Caroni Tugela Jostedal Glacier Monge Yosemite Creek		Venezuela South Africa Norway Norway USA	9 8 7	98 94 80 77 73
Most Wide	<del>' '</del>		Languages		
1. Mandarin (			00,00,00,00		

<ol> <li>English</li> <li>Hindi</li> <li>Spanish</li> <li>Russian</li> </ol>		52,00,0 45,00,0 35,00,0 30,00,0	00,000
Highest	M	ountains	
Mountain	Lo	cation	Height (m)
1. Everest 2. K 2 (Godwin-Austen) 3. Kanchenjunga 4. Lhotse 5. Makalu	Ti Ka Ch Ne Sil Ne	epal- bet ashmir- aina epal- kkim epal- bet	8,850 8,611 8,598 8,501 8,470

	Nepal- Tibet	-	
]	Largest Islan	nds	
Island	Location	1 * *	ox. area (sq. km)
<ol> <li>Greenland</li> <li>New</li> <li>Guinea</li> <li>Borneo</li> <li>Madagascar</li> <li>Baffin</li> </ol>	Arctic Ocean West Pacific Ocean Indian Ocean Indian Ocean Arctic	5	1,75,600 7,89,900 7,51,000 5,87,040 5,07,450

Dea	dliest Snak	es	
Species	Native Reg	gion	
1. Taipan 2. Black	Australia	&	New

2. Black
Mamba
3. Tiger Snake
4. Common
Krait
5. Death
Adder
Guinea
Southern & Central
Africa
Australia
South Asia
Australia



Tallest Habitable Buildings			
Building	Location	Storeys	Height(m)
1. Burj Dubai			
2. Taipei 101 3.	Dubai (UAE)		
Shanghai World Financial	Taipei (Taiwan)	162 101	818 509

Centre	Shanghai	101	492
4.	Kuala	88	452
Petronas	Lumpur	110	442
Twin	Chicago		
Towers			
5. Wills			
Tower			
(Sears)			
	Commone	st Phobia	ıs
Object of	Phobia	Medical	Term
1. Spiders	3	Arachnop	hobia
2. People & social		Anthrophobia or	
situations		Sociophobia	
3. Flying		Aerophobia	
4. Heights		Acrophob	oia or

spaces	Claustropho	Claustrophobia		
Longest Bridges				
Bridge	Country	Length (m)		
1. Akashi Kaikyo				
(1998)	Japan	1,991		
2. Store Baelt	Denmark	1,624		
(1998)	UK	1,410		
3. Humber (1981)	China	1,385		
4. Jiangyin (1998) 5. Tsing Ma (1997)	China	1,377		
	ı	ı		

Altophobia

5. Confined

#### 73.

## Miscellaneous

UNION TERRITORIES OF INDIA			
Name	Capital	Area (sq. km)	Populai

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	8,249	3,56,
2. Chandigarh	Chandigarh	114	9,00,
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Silvassa	491	2,20,
4. Daman & Diu	Daman	112	1,58,
5. Delhi	New Delhi	1,483	1,38,50,
6. Lakshadeep	Kavaratti	32	60,
7. Puducherry	Puducherry	492	9,74,

COM	MIS	SIONED RA	NK	S IN
	INI	DIAN FORCI	E	
C 11	•	41	•	•

The following are the commissioned ranks in the three services, beginning with the highest rank and going down

,	ach rank is sho	* *
Army	Navy	Air Force
General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Air Marshal

Air Vice

Major Rear Admiral General Marshal

Brigadier	Commodore	Air Commodore Group Captain	
Colonel	Captain		
Lieutenant Colonel	Commander	Wing Comm	ander
Major	Lieutenant Commander	Squad: Leader	
Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant	
Lieutenant	Sub	Flying	
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Officer	
		•	
WORLD LEADERS			
ASSASSINATED			
Abraham	m President of the 1865		1865

Lincoln	United Sates	
Indira Gandhi	Prime Minister of India	1984
John F. Kennedy	President of the United States	1963
Liyaqat Ali Khan	First Prime Minister of Pakistan	1951
Mahatma Gandhi	Father of the Nation, India	1948
Martin Luther King	American Negro Leader	1968
Rajiv Gandhi	Former Prime Minister of India	1991
Ranasingha	President of Sri	1993

Premdasa Sheikh Mujib-ur- Rehman	Lanka Presid Bangla		1975	
Zia-ur- Rehman	President of Bangladesh		1981	
Benazir Bhutto	Former Prime Minister of Pakistan		2007	
UNITS OF MEASUREMENTS				
Name of unit		Used to measure		
Ampere		Electric current		
Calorie		Quantity of heat		
Carat		Purity of gold		
Celsius (Centi	Temperature			

Decibel	Sound		
Diopter	Power of a lense		
Fahrenheit	Temperature		
Joule	Energy		
Kelvin	Temperature		
Knot	Speed of a ship		
Light Year	Distance in space		
Newton	Force		
Ream	Sheets of paper		
Watt	Electric power		
CONVERSION FACTORS Length			
1 inch = $2.54 \text{ cm}$			

\_\_\_\_\_\_

```
12 \text{ inch} = 1 \text{ foot}
   3 \text{ feet} = 1 \text{ yard}
   1 mile = 1.6 \text{ km}
   1 nautical mile = 1.85 \text{ km}
Weight
```

1 ounce = 28.35 g16 ounce = 1 pound1 pound = 454 g

1 tonne = 1,000 kg

Capacity 1 gallon (UK) = 4.55 litres

#### **74.**

# Quiz

- 1. What is the full form of ATM?
- 2. What does FIR stand for?
- 3. What is the full form of MBBS?
- 4. What does WWF stand for?

6. Who is the author of 'A Suitable Boy'?

5. Who wrote 'Ramayana'?

- 7. Who wrote 'Arabian Nights'?8. Who is the author of 'Jungle Book'?
- 9. What colour in our National Flag signifies faith and prosperity?10. How many lions are there in our
- National Emblem?

  11. Which book is the source of our
- National Song?

  12. Which is the third most widely spoken language in the world?
- 13. How many states and union territories are there in India?
- 14. Which is the largest Indian state?

India?16. Who was the first President of India?17. Which Indian President occupied the office for the shortest term?

15. Which is the most populous state in

- 18. Who was the first President of India to be elected unopposed?19. Who was the President of India
- declared a state of emergency in 1975? 20. Who is known as 'The Father of India's Missile Programme'?

when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

21. Who was the youngest Prime Minister of India?22. Which Indian Prime Minister died in

Russia?

24. Which city is the capital of two Indian states?25. Which language is spoken in Kerala?26. Telugu is the principal language of

23. What is the capital of Uttarakhand?

- which Indian state?

  27. What is the famous classical dance form of Kerala?
- 28. Which Indian state would you associate with *Garba*?
- 29. Bihu is the famous dance form of which Indian state?
- which Indian state?
  30. What is the capital of Australia?
- 31. What is the capital of Malaysia?
- 32. What is the currency of China?
- 33. What is the currency of Saudi

European Union?
35. What are the natives of Netherlands called?
36. What are the natives of Scotland called?
37. What is the official language of Brazil?

38. What is the official language of Iran?

39. What is the major religion in

34. What is the single currency of the

Arabia?

Thailand?

40. In which country is the religion *Shintoism* followed?41. Which is the largest and the most populated continent?

- 42. On which continent is Brazil?43. Which country has the longest international boundary with India?
- 44. On which continent is the South Pole?
- 45. How is Banaras better known today?46. What was the old name of Japan?47. How is Mesopotamia better known
- 47. How is Mesopotamia better known today?48. Which city is called 'The Gateway
- of India'?

  49. Which country is known as 'The Gift
- of the Nile'?

  50. On the banks of which river
  Guwahati is situated?
- Guwahati is situated?
  51. Which capital city is situated on the

52. Which river flows through Baghdad? 53. What is Moradabad famous for? 54. What is Johannesburg famous for? 55. How many players are there in a team of basketball? 56. Which is considered the fastest team game in the world? 57. Which two countries share the world's longest boundary? 58. What is the playground of wrestling called? 59. Which game is also known as pingpong?

60. Which ball game is played in the

largest ground?

banks of river Thames?

62. What is the national game of USA? 63. Which country invented ice hockey? 64. Where were the Olympic Games originated?

61. What is the national game of Russia?

- 65. Who is said to be 'The Father of Modern Olympics'? 66. How many rings are there in the
- Olympic flag? 67. What colour ring in the Olympic flag
- represents Asia? 68. How many days do the Summer
- Olympic Games last?
- 69. Which country has won the most Gold medals in the Olympic hockey?
- 70. Who won the Silver Medal for India

Tournament?
72. Which country has won the most World Cup Soccer Tournaments?
73. Who is the highest goal-scorer in the history of the World Cup Soccer?
74. In which year did India win the

in double trap shooting in Athens

71. Which is the only country to have played in every World Cup Soccer

Olympics, 2004?

World Cup in cricket?

cricket team that won the World Cup in 1983?
76. Which game is Baichung Bhutia associated with?

75. Who was the captain of the Indian

Muhammad Ali?
78. For what country did Zinedine Zidane play?
79. Who is the only woman tennis player to win the Wimbledon singles title nine

77. What was the original name of

- times?
  80. Which game the Irani Trophy is associated with?
- 81. Which game the Davis Cup is associated with?
- 82. Which is the oldest football tournament in India?
  83. Which game the term knockout is
- associated with?

  84. What is the colour of the highest belt

the player is sent off the field in soccer? 86. What is the length of a cricket pitch? 87. What is the width of a football goal? 88. At what height are the baskets hung in baskethall? 89. What is the duration of a normal hockey match? 90. Where is the Wankhede Stadium? 91. Which is the largest indoor stadium in India? 92. Which cricket stadium in India has the largest seating capacity? 93. Which game the Ambedkar Stadium

85. What colour is the card that means

in karate?

is associated with?

Municipal Stadium is associated with? 95. Which is the world's biggest flower? 96. Who was the first Indian to win an Oscar? 97. Which was the first Indian talkie film? 98. Who were the first people to reach the top of Mount Everest? 99. Which country has TGVs? 100. The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of which country? 101. Who is popularly known as 'The Nightingale of India'?

102. Who is popularly known as 'The

94. Which game the Maracana

103. What nationality was Florence Nightingale? 104. In which country was Albert Einstein born? 105. Which great 16th-century Italian artist and thinker designed a helicopter that was never built? 106. Who founded the Missionaries of Charity? 107. Who founded the Aligarh Muslim University? 108. Who gave the popular slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'? 109. Who said 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'?

Black Pearl'?

110. Which is the fastest land animal? 111. Which is the smallest bird? 112. Which is the largest lizard? 113. Name one egg laying mammal. 114. Which mammal has the longest pregnancy period? 115. Which bird travels the longest distance during its migratory journey? 116. Which bird has the longest wings? 117. Where is the Kaziranga National Park? 118. Which National Park is famous for Asiatic lions? 119. Where is the Rock Garden in India? 120. Where is Science City in India? 121. Where is Grand Canyon?

India?
124. Which is the highest mountain peak in Indian territory?
125. Which is the tallest building in India?
126. Which place in India receives the

maximum rainfall annually?

122. Name the building which houses the US Defence Ministry in Washington,

123. Which is the largest prison in

DC.

world?

128. Which is the largest and deepest Ocean?129. Which is the lowest point on the

127. Which is the largest river in the

earth? 130. Which is the highest waterfall in the world? 131. How many triangular sides does a pyramid have? 132. Where were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon built? 133. Where is the Salar Jung Museum? 134. Who first proposed the name 'United Nations'? 135. How many countries are in the UN? 136. In what city is the UN headquarters? 137. On which date the Nobel Prizes are awarded annually?

138. Who invented the dynamite?

140. For what discipline was Amartya Sen awarded the Nobel Prize in 1998? 141. Who was the first foreigner to receive Bharat Ratna? 142. Which is the highest sports award given to sportspersons in India? 143. Which is the highest gallantry award in India? 144. Who invented the helicopter?

139. Which Indian scientist won the

Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1968?

to Johannes Gutenburg?
146. Who propounded 'The Theory of Evolution'?
147. Which scientist obtained the most

145. Which invention is usually credited

crews to see above the water? 150. Which branch of science deals with the study of plants? 151. What is a scientist who studies the weather called? 152. Which is usually associated with fine weather: high pressure or low pressure? 153. Which is the largest planet in our Solar System? 154. Which planet is famous for the

patents from the US patent office?

vehicle?

148. Which instrument is used for measuring the distance travelled by a

149. What device is used by submarine

body? 157. How many bones are there in an adult's skull? 158. Deficiency of which vitamin causes night blindness? 159. Which vitamin helps in blood clotting? 160. Which part of our body is affected by jaundice? 161. Which goddess is worshiped on the Diwali festival? 162. Name the festival of Kerala during

155. Which is the largest organ in our

156. What is the largest bone in our

rings around it?

body?

which boat races are held. 163. Where was Lord Buddha born? 164. Where was Jesus Christ born? 165. What is the meaning of Bhagavadgita? 166. What is the holy journey to Mecca made by the Muslims called? 167. To which religion do the sects Sunnis and Shias belong? 168. Who worship in a Fire Temple? 169. On which date do we celebrate Children's Day? 170. Whose birthday is celebrated as Teachers' Day in India? 171. In which year did India become a

Republic?

174. In which year did the atom bombs drop on Japan?
175. What large machine was used for the first time in World War I?
176. Who created the famous cartoon character Micky Mouse?
177. Who is the creator of the fictional character Mowgli?

178. What is a place where money is

179. What we call a room at a railway

172. Which Indian astronaut died in the Columbia Space Shuttle explosion in

173. In which year did people first walk

2003?

on the moon?

coined called?

station that is used for keeping luggage? 180. What subject deals with the study and collection of postage stamps? 181. How fast do tsunami waves move? 182. What is a person who draws maps and charts called? 183. What is a doctor who treats animals called? 184. What is a person who loves and collects books called? 185. What is the illegal copying of books, CDs and cassettes called? 186. Which is the oldest living language in the world? 187. Which country has the largest postal network?

189. Which is the world's highest battle ground?
190. Which is the oldest existing English daily in India?
191. Which is the largest country?
192. Which is the second most populated

188. Which is the longest railway

platform in the world?

country?

- 193. Which religion has the largest followers in the world?194. Which is the fastest growing
- religion in the world?
  195. How high is Mount Everest?
  196. In which continent are the world's highest mountains?

- 197. Which is the most widely spoken language in the world?198. Which is the highest commissioned rank in Indian navy?199. What is the unit of sound?
- 200. How many centimeters are there in one inch?

### *75.*

# **Answers**

- 1. Automated Teller Machine
- 2. First Information Report
- 3. Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

- 4. Worldwide Fund for Nature5. Valmiki6. Vikram Seth
- 7. Sir Richard Burton
- 8. Rudyard Kipling9. Green
- 10. Four
- 11. Anand Math
- 12. Hindi
- 13. 28 states & 7 union territories
- 14. Rajasthan
- 15. Uttar Pradesh
- 16. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- 17. Dr. Zakir Husain (2 years)18. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad 20. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam 21. Rajiv Gandhi 22. Lal Bahadur Shastri 23. Dehradun 24. Chandigarh 25. Malayalam 26 Andhra Pradesh 27. Kathakali 28. Gujarat 29. Assam 30. Canberra

31. Kuala Lumpur

32. Yuan

33. Riyal

34. Euro	
35. Dutch	
36. Scottish	
37. Portuguese	
38. Persian	
39. Buddhism	
40. Japan	
41. Asia	
42. South America	
43. China	
44. Antarctica	
45. Varanasi	
46. Nippon	
47. Iraq	
48. Mumbai	

49. Egypt 50. Brahmaputra 51. London 52. Tigris 53. Brassware 54. Gold mines 55. Five 56. Ice hockey 57. Canada and the USA 58. Arena 59. Table tennis 60. Polo 61. Chess 62. Baseball 63. Canada

64. Greece 65. Baron Pierre de Coubertine 66. Five 67. Yellow 68. 16 days 69. India (8 medals) 70. Major Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore 71 Brazil 72. Brazil (5 times) 73. Ronaldo (Brazil) 74. 1983 75. Kapil Dev

76. Football

78. France

77. Cassius Clay

79. Martina Navratilova 80. Cricket 81 Tennis 82. Durand Cup 83. Boxing 84. Black 85. Red 86. 22 yards (66 feet) 87. 24 feet 88. 10 feet 89 70 minutes 90. Mumbai 91. Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium

92. Eden Gardens (Kolkata)

93. Football

94. Football 95. Rafflesia 96. Bhanu Athaiya 97. Alam Ara 098. Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay 099. France 100. Australia 101. Sarojini Naidu 102. Pele 103. Italian 104. Germany 105. Leonardo da Vinci 106. Mother Teresa 107. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

108. Lal Bahadur Shastri
109. Neil Armstrong
110. Cheetah
111. Bee hummingbird
112. Komodo dragon
113. Platypus
114. Asian elephant
115. Arctic tern
116. Wandering albatross
117. Jorhat (Assam)
118. Gir National Park
119. Chandigarh
120. Kolkata
121. Arizona (USA)
122. Pentagon

123. Tihar Central Jail 124. Nanga Parbat (Kashmir) 125. Shreepati Arcade (Mumbai) 126. Mawsynram (Meghalaya) 127. Amazon 128. Pacific 129. Dead Sea 130. Angel Falls 131. Four 132. Iraq 133. Hyderabad 134 Franklin D. Roosevelt President) 135, 191 136. New York City

137. December 10 138. Alfred Bernhard Nobel 139. Dr. Har Gobind Khorana 140. Economics 141. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan 142. Arjuna Award 143. Param Vir Chakra 144. Sikorsky 145. Printing Press 146. Charles Darwin 147. Thomas Alva Edison 148. Odometer 149. Periscope 150. Botany

151. Meteorologist

152. High pressure
153. Jupiter
154. Saturn
155. Liver
156. Thigh bone (femur)
157. 22
158. Vitamin A
159. Vitamin K
160. Liver
161. Lakshmi
162. Onam
163. Lumbini (Nepal)
164. Bethlehem
165. Song of the Lord
166. Hajj

167. Islam
168. Parsees
169. November 14
170. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan's
171. 1950
172. Kalpana Chawla
173. 1969
174. 1945
175. Tank
176. Walt Disney
177. Rudyard Kipling
178. Mint
179. Cloakroom
180. Philately
181. At over 700 km/h

182. Cartographer 183 Veterinarian 184. Bibliophile 185. Piracy 186. Tamil 187. India 188. Kharagpur 189. Siachen Glacier 190. The Times of India 191 Russia 192. India 193. Christianity 194. Islam 195. 8,850 m

196. Asia

#### 197. Mandarin Chinese 198. Admiral

199. Decibel

200. 2.54 cm

#### **76.**

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