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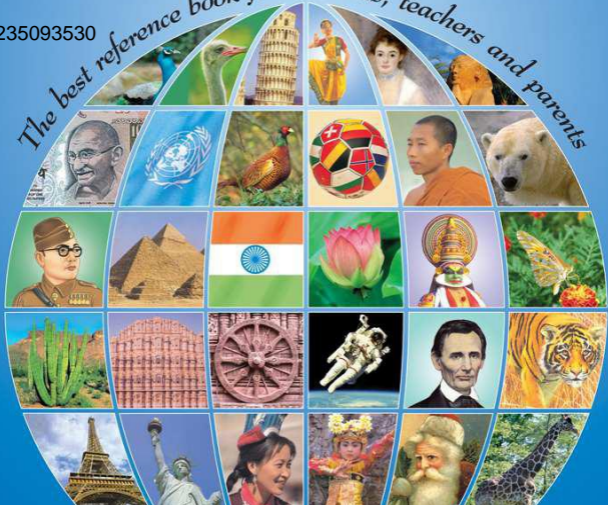
Student's
Encyclopedia of

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

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The best reference book for students, teachers and parents



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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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Contents

[Preface](#)

-

[Common Abbreviations](#)

[Famous Books \(India\)](#)

[Famous Books \(World\)](#)

[Hello India](#)

[Presidents of India](#)

[Prime Ministers of India](#)

[Indian States and their Capitals](#)

[Indian States and their Languages](#)

[Dances of India](#)

[Countries and their Capitals](#)

[Countries and their Currencies](#)

Countries and their Natives

Countries and their Languages

Countries and their Religions

Continents and Countries

Changed Names of Some Places

Geographical Epithets

Riverside Cities

Cities Associated with Industries

Number of Players

Names of Playgrounds

National Games

Olympic Games

World Cup Soccer

World Cup Cricket

Famous Sportspersons

[Sports Cups and Trophies](#)

[Sports Terms](#)

[Sports Measurements](#)

[Sports Stadiums in India](#)

[Places Associated with Sports](#)

[First in India](#)

[First in the World](#)

[Popular Titles of Famous Personalities](#)

[Nationalities of Famous Personalities](#)

[Famous Founders](#)

[Popular Slogans](#)

[Animal Records](#)

[Animal Facts](#)

[National Parks and Sanctuaries](#)

[Famous Sites \(India\)](#)

[Famous Sites \(World\)](#)

[India's Superlatives](#)

[World's Superlatives](#)

[Seven Wonders of the Ancient World](#)

[Museums in India](#)

[United Nations](#)

[Nobel Prize](#)

[Indian Nobel Laureates](#)

[Bharat Ratna](#)

[National Awards](#)

[Inventions](#)

[Scientific Discoveries](#)

[Scientific Instruments](#)

[Branches of Science](#)

[The Planets](#)

[Body Facts](#)

[Vitamins](#)

[Diseases and Human Body](#)

[Festivals of India](#)

[Major Religions](#)

[Important Days](#)

[Important events in Indian History](#)

[Important events in World History](#)

[Fictional Characters and their Creators](#)

[Defining Places](#)

[Different Subjects](#)

[Professionals](#)

[Important Terms](#)

[World Records held by India\(ns\)](#)

[Newspapers and Periodicals](#)

[The Top 5](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

[Quiz](#)

[Answers](#)

[Index](#)

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

reliable sources—and verified for accuracy.

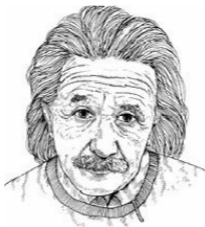
This book is full of features that aim to provide useful data in an easily accessible format. The contents cover a wide range of subjects including language & literature, sports & culture, people & places, history & geography, science & technology, mythology & current affairs, etc. ‘Believe It or Not’ 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.

Once you are convinced that *Student's Encyclopedia of General Knowledge* is truly a book like no other, kindly recommend it to your students along with their school curriculum. It would help them to broaden their field of knowledge.

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 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 Lord)

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

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

B S N L — 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

C I A — 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 Internationale 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

IAF — Indian Air Force

IAS — Indian Administrative Service

IBM — International Business Machines

ICU — Intensive Care Unit

i.e. — *id est* (that is)

IGNOU — Indira Gandhi National
Open University

IIT — Indian Institute of Technology

INA — Indian National Army

INTERPOL — International Criminal
Police Commission

IPS — Indian Police Service

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

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

VIP — Very Important Person

viz. — *videlicet* (namely)

VPP — Value Payable Post

vs. — *versus* (against)

WHO — World Health Organization

WWF — Worldwide Fund for Nature

www — worldwide web

Xmas — Christmas

YMCA — Young Men's Christian
Association

YWCA — Young Women's Christian
Association

2.

Famous Books (India)

Name of the book	Author
A Suitable Boy Ain-i-Akbari	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
	Vikram Seth
Gora	

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

Ramayana

Rangbhoomi

Satanic Verses

Shakuntala

Song of India

Sunny Days

The God of Small

Things

Tulsidas

Valmiki

Premchand

Salman Rushdie

Kalidas

Sarojini Naidu

Sunil Gavaskar

Arundhati Roy



Mirza Ghalib



Premchand

3.

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
	Charles Dickens

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

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



William Shakespeare

4.

Hello India

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

National Flag

Our National Flag is a tricolour with deep saffron at the top, white in the

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 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 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

Our National Emblem is a Lion Capital, adopted from the Ashoka's Pillar at Sarnath. It has four lions, standing back 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

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

5.

Presidents of India

Name	Life span	Tenure
1. Dr. Rajendra	(1884–	26 Jan. 1950 — 13 May

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	(1913–1996)	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	(1918–1999)	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	(b 1934)	—25 2012	July
13.	Pranab Mukherjee	(b 1935)	25 July 2012 —till date	

Acting Presidents of India:

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

3. B.D. Jatti

(1913–
2002)

11 Feb. 1977
—25 July
1977



Dr. Rajendra Prasad



Dr. S. Radhakrishnan



Dr. Zakir Husain



Giani Zail Singh



R. Venkataraman



Pranab Mukherjee

6.

Prime Ministers of India

Name	Life span	Tenure

1. Jawaharlal Nehru	(1889–1964)	15 Aug. 1947 — 27 May 1964
2. Lal Bahadur Shastri	(1904–1966)	9 June 1964 — 11 Jan. 1966
3. Indira Gandhi	(1917–1984)	24 Jan. 1966 — 24 March 1977
4. Morarji Desai	(1896–1995)	24 March 1977 — 28 July 1979
5. Choudhary Charan Singh	(1902–1987)	28 July 1979 — 14 Jan 1980
6. Indira Gandhi	(1917–1984)	14 Jan. 1980 — 31 Oct. 1984
7. Rajiv Gandhi	(1944–1991)	31 Oct. 1984 — 1 Dec. 1989

8. Vishwanath Pratap Singh	(b 1931)	2 Dec. 1989 — 10 Nov. 1990
9. Chandra Shekhar	(1927— 2007)	10 Nov. 1990 — 21 June 1991
10. P. V. Narasimha Rao	(1921— 2004)	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

7.

Indian States and their Capitals

State	Capital
Andhra	

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

Madhya
Pradesh

Maharashtra Mumbai

Manipur Imphal

Meghalaya Shillong

Mizoram Aizawl

Nagaland Kohima

Orissa Bhubaneswar

Punjab Chandigarh

Rajasthan Jaipur

Sikkim Gangtok

Tamil Nadu Chennai

Telangana Hyderabad

Tripura Agartala

Uttar Pradesh Lucknow

Uttarakhand	Dehradun
West Bengal	Kolkata

Believe It or Not:

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

8.

Indian States and their Languages

State	Principal language(s)
Andhra	

Pradesh	
Arunachal Pradesh	Telugu and Urdu
Assam	Several tribal dialects
Bihar	Assamese
Chhattisgarh	Hindi and Bhojpuri
Goa	Hindi
Gujarat	Konkani and Marathi
Haryana	Gujarati
Himachal Pradesh	Hindi
Jammu and Kashmir	Hindi and Pahari
Kashmir	Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri and Ladakhi
Jharkhand	Hindi and Bhojpuri
Karnataka	Kannada
Kerala	Malayalam
	Hindi

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

Uttar Pradesh	Hindi and Urdu
Uttarakhand	Hindi, Garhwali and
West Bengal	Kumaoni Bengali

Believe It or Not:

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

9.

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



Bharata Natyam



Kathakali

Other Important Dances

Bamboo dance	Assam
Bidesia	Bihar
Chau	West Bengal
Ghumar	Rajasthan
Gidda	Punjab
Lavni	Maharashtra

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

Believe It or Not:

- 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.

10.

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

Libya	Tripoli
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Mauritius	Port Louis
Mexico	Mexico City
Morocco	Rabat
Myanmar	Yangon
Nepal	Kathmandu
Netherlands	Amsterdam
New Zealand	Wellington
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

Zimbabwe

Harare

11.

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
Nepal	Rupee
Netherlands	Euro
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

Vietnam	Dong
Zimbabwe	Dollar

12.

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

Malaysia	Malay/Malayan
Mauritius	Mauritian
Mexico	Mexican
Mongolia	Mongolian/Mongol
Morocco	Moroccan/Moor
Myanmar	Burman/Burmese
Nepal	Nepalese
Netherlands	Dutch
Norway	Norwegian
Oman	Omani
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

West Indies

West Indian

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwean

13.

Countries and their Languages

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

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

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

14.

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)
Australia	Christianity
Bangladesh	Islam
Brazil	Christianity
Cambodia	Buddhism
Canada	Christianity
China	Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism
Egypt	Islam
France	Christianity
Germany	Christianity
Greece	Greek Orthodox
India	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

15.

Continents and Countries

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

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

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

Australia

Fiji

New Zealand

16.

Changed Names of Some Places

India	
New name	Old name

Allahabad

Bengaluru

Chennai

Guwahati

Karnataka

Kolkata

Kozhikode

Mumbai

Panaji

Patna

Thiruvananthapuram

Vadodara

Varanasi

Prayag

Bangalore

Madras

Gauhati

Mysore

Calcutta

Calicut

Bombay

Panjim

Patliputra

Trivendrum

Baroda

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

17.

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

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	

18.

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

19.

Cities Associated with Industries

Indian Cities	
City	Industry

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

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

Foreign Cities

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

20.

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	7



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.

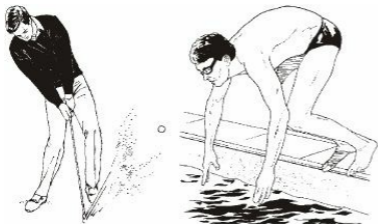
21.

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	Range
Skating	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.

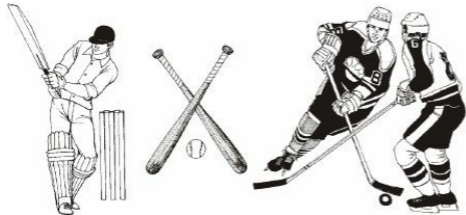
- Termites build their nests in huge mounds many times taller than themselves. If people lived in huge buildings equivalent to a termite's nest, they would be over 4,000 m high.

22.

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.

23.

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

world's oldest sports event brings 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.

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

conquered Greece during the 140's BC, and the games soon lost their religious meaning. In AD 393, Emperor Theodosius I banned the games.

Modern Olympics

Baron Pierre de Coubertine, a french educator, revived the games to encourage world peace and friendship and to promote healthy sporting competition for the youth of the world. 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,

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 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,

Australia, Europe and the Americas. The flag of every nation competing in the games has at least one of these colours. The Olympic Flag is white in colour, originally made of cotton. The Emblem is placed in the middle of the flag.

Colour of ring	Continent represented
Blue ring	Europe
Yellow ring	Asia
Black ring	Africa
Green ring	Australia
Red ring	America

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.

The second-place medal is made of 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 Summer Games

The Olympic Games consist of the Summer Games and the Winter Games. The Summer Games are held during the summer season of the host city, usually between July and October. These games last 16 days. Athletes compete in more

than 270 separate events during the Summer Games. Women first participated in Olympics in 1900 in Paris.

The Winter Games

The Winter Games with over 60 events are usually held in February and last 16 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 1952 Olympics.
- 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 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

tournaments in the world. It is held every four years to determine the world's soccer champion. The Cup given to the winner is made of pure solid gold and is 12 inches in height.

Winners and the venues of the previous World Cup Soccer Tournaments are as follows :

THE WORLD CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT RECORD

Year	Winner	Runner-up	Score
1930	Uruguay	Argentina	4 – 2
1934	Italy	Czechoslovakia	2 – 1
1938	Italy	Hungary	4 – 2

1950	Uruguay	Brazil	2 - 1
1954	W Germany	Hungary	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

1998	France	Brazil	3 – 0
2002	Brazil	Germany	3 – 0
2006	Italy	France	5 – 3
2010	Spain	Netherlands	1 – 0
2014	Germany	Argentina	1 – 0

The following statistics give the earlier winners:

Country	Won	In year
Brazil	5 times	1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002
Italy	4 times	1934, 1938, 1982, 2006

Germany	4 times	1954, 1974, 1990, 2014
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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

Indies, New Zealand, India and Pakistan took Part. The West Indies won this tournament and also the next one in 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

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

Athletics

Milkha Singh

P. T. Usha

Shiny Wilson

Ashwini Nachappa

Paramjit Singh

Carl Lewis

Jesse Owens

Michael Johnson

Badminton

Prakash Padukone

Syed Modi

Gopi Chand

Basketball

Hanuman Singh

Suman Sharma

Michael Jordan

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

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	Basketball
Challenge Cup	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)
Ranji Trophy	Cricket

Santosh Trophy	Football
Subroto Mukherji Cup	Football
Wellington Cup	Rowing
Winchester Cup	Polo

International

Name	Associated Sport
American Cup	Yacht racing
Ashes	Cricket (Australia-England)
Corbillion Cup	World table tennis (Women)
Davis Cup	Tennis
Derby	Horse racing (England)
Merdeka Cup	
Prince of Wales	

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

28.

Sports Terms

Archery

Target

Bull's-eye

Badminton

Let

Drop

Fault

Smash

Deuce

Baseball

Pitcher

Put out

Home

Bunting

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

Hat trick

Hit wicket

Crease

Maiden over

Drive

Wide ball

No ball

Silly point

Follow on

Leg bye

Chinaman

Football

Dribble

Hat trick

Handball

Throw-in

Free kick

Corner kick

Penalty kick

Golf

Put

Caddie

Tee

Bogey

Birdie

Hockey

Dribble

Hat trick

Bully

Scoop

Roll-in

Short corner

Carry

Horse racing

Jockey

Punter

Polo

Bunker

Mallet

Chukker

Rugby

Scrum

Drop goal

Touchdown

Shooting

Bull's-eye

Plug

Swimming

Freestyle

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

29.

Sports Measurements

Here are standard measurements of some sports playgrounds and goods:

Badminton

Court — 44 ft × 17 ft (for singles)

44 ft × 20 ft (for doubles)

Basketball

Court — 85 ft × 46 ft

Height of basket — 10 ft (3.05 m)

Billiards

Table — 12 ft × 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

(11.4 cm)

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

Football

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)

Hockey

Length of field — 100 yards (90 m)

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

Marathon

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

Polo

Ground — 300 yd \times 160 yd

Tennis

Court — 78 ft \times 27 ft (for singles)

78 ft \times 36 ft (for doubles)

Volleyball

Court — 30 ft × 30 ft



30.

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 Stadium	Kanpur
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	New Delhi
Keenan Stadium	Jamshedpur
Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium	Hyderabad
National Stadium	New Delhi
Netaji Indoor Stadium	Kolkata

Ranjit Stadium	Kolkata
Sawai Man Singh Stadium	Jaipur
Shivaji Stadium	New Delhi
Talkatora Indoor Stadium	New Delhi
Vallabh Bhai Patel Stadium	Mumbai
Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai
Yadvindra Stadium	Patiala
Yuba Bharati (Salt Lake) Stadium	Kolkata

Believe It or Not:

- Snakes never close their eyes at any time.
- If you fell down from the Mount

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 wings measuring up to 28 cm across.

31.

Places Associated with Sports

National		
		Associated

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

International

Place	Location	Associated with
Blackheath	England	Rugby
Epsom	England	Horse racing
Forest Hills	USA	Tennis

Hurlingham	England	Polo
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.

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.

32.

First in India

First President of India	Dr. Rajendra 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	Aryabhata (1975)

33.

First in the World

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

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

First woman to reach North Pole	Karoline Mikkelsen (1935)
First surgeon to perform the successful human heart transplant	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:

- 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 Moon.

34.

Popular Titles of Famous Personalities

India	
Title	Original name

Bapu/Father of the Nation

Chacha/Panditji

Deenbandhu

Flying Sikh

Grand Old Man of India

Gurudev

Haryana Hurricane

Hockey Wizard

Little Master

Lokmanya

Loknayak/JP

Mahamana

Mahatma Gandhi

Jawaharlal Nehru

C.F. Andrews

Milkha Singh

Dadabhai Naoroji

Rabindranath

Tagore

Kapil Dev

Dhyan Chand

Sunil Gavaskar

Bal Gangadhar

Tilak

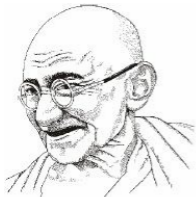
Jayaprakash

Narayan

Madan Mohan

Malviya

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



Mahatma Gandhi



Dhyani Chand

The World

Bangabandhu

Bard of Avon

Black Pearl

Don

Father of English

Poetry

Frontier

Sheikh Mujib-
ur-Rehman

William
Shakespeare

Pele

Sir Donald
Bradman

Geoffrey
Chaucer

Gandhi/Badshah Khan
Fuhrer (Leader)
GBS
Lady of the Lamp
Man of Blood and
Iron/Iron Chancellor
Man of Destiny/Little
Corporal

Abdul Ghaffar
Khan
Adolf Hitler
George
Bernard Shah
Florence
Nightingale
Otto Von
Bismarck
Napoleon
Bonaparte



Pele



Adolf Hitler

35.

Nationalities of Famous Personalities

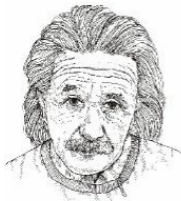
Personality	Country
Abraham Lincoln	

Adolf Hitler	USA
Albert Einstein	Germany (born Austria)
Alexander the Great	USA (born Germany)
Alfred Bernhard Nobel	Macedonia
Benito Mussolini	Sweden
Charlie Chaplin	Italy
Christiaan Barnard	England
Christopher Columbus	South Africa
Florence Nightingale	Italy
Galileo Galilei	Italy
Leonardo da Vinci	France

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

Sir Isaac Newton
Sir Winston
Churchill
Vasco da Gama
Vladimir Lenin
Walt Disney
William
Shakespeare
Yuri Gagarin

England
Britain
Portugal
Russia
USA
England
Russia



Abert Einstein



Charlie Chaplin



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.

36.

Famous Founders

Foundation	Founder
Aligarh Muslim	Sir Syed Ahmad Khan Swami

University

Arya Samaj

Banaras Hindu

University

Bhabha Atomic

Research Centre

(BARC)

Brahmo Samaj

Buddhism

Christianity

Din-e-Elahi

Indian National Army

Indian National

Congress

Islam

Jainism

Dayanand

Saraswati

Madan Mohan

Malviya

Homi Jehangir

Bhabha

Raja Ram

Mohan Rai

Gautam

Buddha

Jesus Christ

Akbar

Subhash

Chandra Bose

A.O. Hume

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

religion)

Guru Nanak
Zoroaster



Akbar



Swami Vivekanand

Believe It or Not:

- The atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed 80,000 people instantly.
- There are more species of fish than there are of mammals, birds,

reptiles and amphibians put together.

- There is about 200 times more gold buried in the sea than has been mined from the land.

37.

Popular Slogans

Do or die.

— Mahatma Gandhi

Aram haram hai.

— Jawaharlal Nehru

Play the game in the spirit of the game.

— 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

Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan.

— Lal Bahadur Shastri

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

leap for mankind.

—Neil Armstrong

Eureka! Eureka! (I have found it.)

— Archimedes

Man is by nature a political animal.

—Aristotle

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.

—Aristotle

I am the greatest!

—Muhammad Ali

Every man has his price.

—Sir Robert Walpole

The child is the father of a man.

—William Wordsworth

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

—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.

38.

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 diving bird	Peregrine falcon	360 km/h
Largest bird of prey	Andean condor	3 m wingspan, 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

Largest spider	Goliath bird-eating spider	28 cm leg-span
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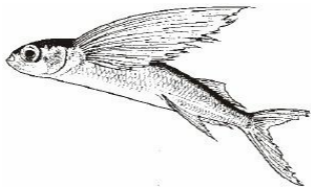
39.

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.



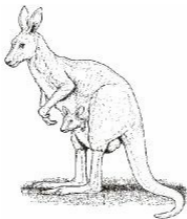
Egg Laying Mammal

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.



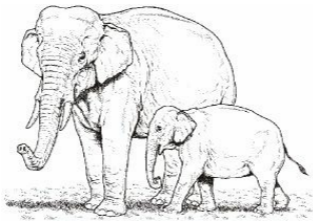
Vampire's Dinner

Vampire bats, found in South America, feed on blood. They lap blood by biting 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

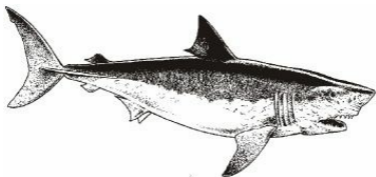
average pregnancy period of one year nine months and a maximum of two years one month.



Great Hunters

Although sharks have poor eyesight, but 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

electricity and find where animals are hiding.



Smart Cuckoos

Cuckoos do not make their nests. A 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

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

food at night. A kiwi has nostrils at the tip of its long beak. It uses its sense of smell to find out earthworms and insects hiding in the soil.

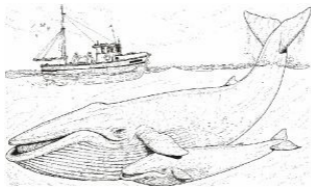
Rarest Pandas

Giant pandas are some of the rarest 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.



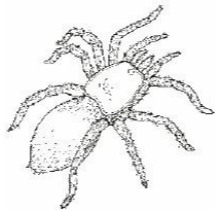
Whales are Mammals

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.



40.

National Parks and Sanctuaries

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

and killing of wildlife is illegal under 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 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

41.

Famous Sites (India)

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

Amarnath Cave	Sikandara, Near Agra
Anand Bhavan	Pahalgam, J&K
Brindavan Gardens	Allahabad
Buland Darwaza	Mysore, Karnataka
Char Minar	Fatehpur Sikri, Near Agra
Chilka Lake	Hyderabad
Dal Lake	Bhubaneswar
Dalal Street	Srinagar
Dilwara Temples	Mumbai
Dolls Museum	Mount Abu, Rajasthan
Gateway of India	New Delhi
Gol Gumbaz	Mumbai
	Bijapur, Karnataka

Golden Temple	
Hawa Mahal	Amritsar, Punjab
Howrah Bridge	Jaipur, Rajasthan
Humayun's Tomb	Howrah
India Gate	New Delhi
Jagannath Temple	New Delhi
Jallianwala Bagh	Puri (Orissa)
Jama Masjid	Amritsar, Punjab
Jantar Mantar	Delhi
Jog Falls	New Delhi
Juhu Beach	Mysore, Karnataka
Kanyakumari	Mumbai
	Tamil Nadu
	Madhya Pradesh

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

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

Victoria

Memorial



Taj Mahal

42.

Famous Sites (World)

Site	Location
Angel Falls Angkor Vat	Venezuela

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

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

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



Mount Rushmore



Statue of Liberty

43.

India's Superlatives

Geographical Superlatives	
Largest state	Rajasthan
Smallest state	

Most populous state

Goa

Least populous state

Uttar Pradesh

Most populous city

Sikkim

Largest desert

Mumbai

Largest delta

Thar

Largest freshwater lake

Sunderbans (Ganga-Brahmaputra)

Largest saltwater lake

Kolleru, Andhra Pradesh

Highest mountain peak

Chilka Lake, Orissa

Highest waterfall

Nanga Parbat, Kashmir

Jog Falls, Mysore

Ganga

Mawsynram (Meghalaya)

Longest river	
Wettest place	

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

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

Longest road

Grand Trunk Road

Longest river
bridge

Mahatma Gandhi Setu,
Patna

Fastest train

Shatabdi Express

44.

World's Superlatives

Geographical Superlatives	
Largest continent	
Smallest continent	

Largest country	Asia
Smallest country	Australia
Most populous country	Russia
Most populous city	Vatican City
Largest democratic country	China
Largest and deepest ocean	Tokyo
Smallest ocean	India
Largest sea	Pacific
Largest desert	Arctic
Largest delta	Coral Sea
Largest	Sahara
	Sunderbans (Ganga-Brahmaputra)
	Lake Superior, Canada-USA

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

the Earth

Jordan

Deepest point in
the oceans

Mariana Trench,
Pacific Ocean

Other Superlatives

Largest
office
building

Pentagon, Washington,
DC

Largest
church

Basilica of St. Peter,
Vatican City

Largest
stadium

Strahov Stadium, Prague

Largest
airport

King Khalid International
Airport, Saudi Arabia

Tallest
building

Petronas Twin Towers,
Kuala Lumpur

Tallest
statue

Statue of Liberty, New
York

Longest
wall

The Great Wall of China

Fastest
train

TGV Express, France

45.

Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

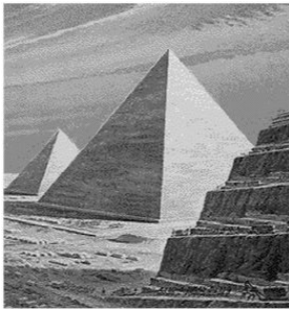
The Seven Wonders of the ancient world were seven outstanding objects that

were built in ancient times. Today, only the pyramids are still standing. All the rest have been destroyed by earthquakes, fire or invaders. These Seven Wonders are arranged here in the order in which they were built.

The Pyramids of Egypt

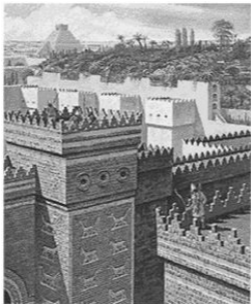
(Giza, Egypt; built from 2700 to 2500 BC)

They were built as royal tombs for the Egyptian pharaohs. 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.



46.

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:

Museum	Location
Allahabad Museum	
Art in Industry Museum	
Bharat Kala Bhavan	Allahabad
Birla Technological & Industrial Museum	Kolkata
Calico Textiles Museum	Varanasi
Gandhi Memorial Museum	Kolkata
Ganga Museum	Ahmedabad
Indian Museum	Madurai
National Gallery of	Bikaner
	Kolkata
	New Delhi

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

Believe It or Not:

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

47.

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

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

UN Headquarters

The UN headquarters consists of several buildings along the East river in New York city. The three main buildings are

the General Assembly Building, the Secretariat Building and the Conference Building. The flags of all the member nations fly in front of the UN headquarters.

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

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 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

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 Council
5. 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.

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.

5. The International Council of Justice handles international legal disputes. The headquarters of the court are at The Hague in the Netherlands.

6. The Trusteeship Council was 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.

48.

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

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

award consists of a gold medal and a diploma bearing a citation. The peace 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 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
Disciplines	Physics, Chemistry, Physiology/Medicine, Literature, Peace and Economics

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 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.”

49.

**Indian Nobel
Laureates**

Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)

Literature, 1913

He was awarded the Nobel Prize in recognition of his work *Gitanjali* (Song Offerings), a collection of 103 poems. He was a distinguished poet, dramatist, novelist, painter and philosopher, who founded Shantiniketan.



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 Missionaries of Charity and served

dying destitutes, lepers and drug addicts.



**Dr. Subramaniam Chandrashekar
(1910–1995)**

Physics, 1983

He received the Nobel Prize for his theory on white dwarf stars known as ‘Chandrashekar 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.



50.

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

advancement of art, literature and 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. The ribbon is white in colour. The award can also be granted posthumously.

Recipients of Bharat Ratna	
1954	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan C. Rajagopalachari Dr. C.V. Raman
1955	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
1991	Rajiv Gandhi* Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel* Morarji Desai
1992	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad* J.R.D. Tata Satyajit Ray
1997	Aruna Asaf Ali* Gulzari Lal Nanda* Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
1998	M.S. Subbalakshmi Chidambaram Subramaniam

1999	Jayaprakash Narayan* Dr. Amartya Sen Gopinath Bordoloi*
2001	Pandit Ravi Shankar Lata Mangeshkar Bismillah Khan
2008	Pandit Bhimsen Joshi

Note: *stands for posthumous.

51.

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.

Aryabhata 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.

Dada Saheb Phalke Award

This award is conferred by the Government of India for outstanding 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.

52.

Inventions

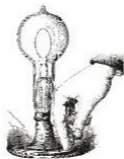
Invention	Inventor	Country
Aeroplane	Wright Brothers	USA

Bicycle	K. Macmillan Thomas	Scot
Cinematograph	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 Gutenberg	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	
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



53.

Scientific Discoveries

Discovery	Discoverer	Country	Year
Blood circulation	William Harvey	England	1628

Electrons	J.J. Thomson	England	1897
Hydrogen	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

Penicillin	Alexander Fleming	England	1928
Rabies vaccine	Louis Pasteur	France	1860
Radium	Marie Curie & Pierre Curie	France	1898
Theory of evolution	Charles Darwin	England	1859
Theory of relativity	Albert Einstein	Germany	1905
Vaccination	Edward Jenner	England	1796
Vitamins	C. Funk	Poland	1912

Difference between an invention and a discovery:

Invention — the act of creating or designing something which did not exist 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.

54.

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 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.

Hygrometer — used for measuring humidity in atmosphere.

Lactometer — used for determining the purity of milk.

Microphone — used for changing sound 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.

Projector — used for presenting an enlarged image of a photograph or a film onto a screen.

Radar — used for detecting the direction and range of an approaching aircraft.

Rain gauge — used for measuring the amount of rainfall.

Seismograph — used for recording and measuring earthquakes.

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.

Sphygmomanometer — used for measuring blood pressure.

Stethoscope — used by a doctor for examining the movements of heart and lungs.

Telescope — used for observing heavenly bodies.

Transformer — used for increasing or reducing the voltage.

Transponder — used for receiving signals and transmitting them immediately by its own.



Microscope



Sextant

55.

Branches of Science

Acoustics — deals with the study of sound.

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

aircraft.

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

Astronomy — deals with the study of the heavenly bodies such as the Sun, Moon, stars, planets, etc.

Biology — deals with the study of the 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.

Ecology — deals with the study of the relationship between living organisms and their environment.

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 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 organisms.

Optics — deals with the study of light.

Ornithology — deals with the study of 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.

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.

56.

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

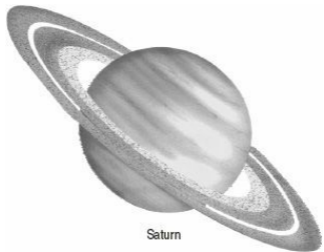
Saturn	1,429.4	120,000	29.46 years
Uranus	2,875.0	51,000	84 years
Neptune	4,504.3	49,500	164.79 years

Note : The data given here is as per NASA's website. Some planets also have many smaller satellites or moons.

Important Facts:

- Largest planet — Jupiter
- Smallest planet — Mercury
- Planet nearest to the Sun — Mercury

- Planet farthest from the Sun — Neptune
- Hottest and brightest planet — Venus
- Coldest planet — Uranus
- 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.



Saturn

57.

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.

- The normal temperature of our body is 37°C or 98°F.
- There are 206 bones in our skeleton. 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, but about 43 to frown.
- The size and shape of a person's nose can affect his or her voice.
- The coronary heart disease is the 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 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.

58.

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	Essential for the development of babies before birth and the growth of children; especially needed for the growth of bones and teeth; keeps the skin	Night blindness; poor growth, rough and dry skin; <i>xerophthalmia</i> , in which the surface of the eyes becomes dry.

	healthy.	
Vitamin B1	Like vitamin A, this vitamin is also needed for growth; our body also needs it to change carbohydrates into energy.	<i>Beriberi</i> , a disease of the nervous system.
Vitamin B2	Needed for growth and for healthy skin and eyes; promotes the body's use of	Cracks in the skin at the corners of the mouth; scaly skin around the nose and ears;

	oxygen in converting food into energy.	eyes become extremely sensitive to light.
Vitamin B12	Essential for the normal functioning of an another vitamin called folic acid; they both are needed to produce DNA.	A deficiency of either of these vitamins causes <i>anaemia</i> ; lack of vitamin B12 also damages the nervous system.
	Essential for healthy blood	

Vitamin C	vessels, bones and teeth; also helps to form <i>collagen</i> , a protein that holds tissues together.	<i>Scurvy</i> , a disease in which bleeding occurs under the skin, around teeth and bones.
Vitamin D	Helps in absorption and metabolism of calcium and phosphorus and thus assists in	<i>Rickets</i> , a disease in which bones fail to harden sufficiently and become bent.

	body growth.	
Vitamin E	Plays an important role in maintaining cell membranes.	Deficiency of vitamin E occurs rarely and produces few symptoms.
Vitamin K	Essential for blood clotting.	Delay in blood clotting.

59.

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

Leukaemia	Blood
Malaria	Spinal cord
Paralysis	Nervous system
Pneumonia	Lungs
Polio	Legs
Pyrrhoea	Gums
Rickets	Bones
Tetanus	Muscles
Tonsillitis	Tonsils (Glands in throat)
Trachoma	Eyes
Tuberculosis	Lungs
Typhoid	Intestines

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.

60.

Festivals of India

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

Baisakhi

A harvest festival of Punjab.

Basant Panchmi

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

A festival celebrated to commemorate the victory of Rama (the Good) over Ravana (the Evil).

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

A Muslim festival to observe the birth and death anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

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

A Friday before Easter, remembered by Christians as the day of crucifixion (killing by fastening to a cross with nails) of Jesus Christ.

Guruparv

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

A harvest festival of Kerala (during which boat races are held).

Pongal

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

anniversary of Lord Rama.

61.

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
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CHRISTIANITY

Founder	Jesus Christ (4 BC–AD 30), born in Bethlehem, also called Jesus of Nazareth
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Date founded	1st AD
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Sacred text	Holy Bible consisting of the Old Testament (before Christ) and the New Testament (during and after Christ)
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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	<i>Mandir</i> (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,
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	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	<i>Masjid</i> (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

United States

SIKHISM

Founder	Guru Nanak (1469–1539), born in Talwandi village, now in Pakistan
Date founded	1500 AD
Sacred text	The <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i>
Place of worship	<i>Gurdwara</i>
Sacred place	Golden Temple, Amritsar
Followed in	India

ZOROASTRIANISM (PARSI RELIGION)

Founder	Zoroaster (600 BC), born in Iran
Date founded	600 BC, Iran
Sacred text	The <i>Zend Avesta</i>
Place of worship	Fire Temple
Followed in	Iran and north-west India

62.

Important Days

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

Gandhi Jayanti	October 2
Independence Day	August 15
Jallianwala Bagh Day	April 13
Kisan Divas (Farmer's Day)	December 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 10
International Labour Day	10

International Literacy Day	May 1 September 8
International Women's Day	March 8 May 8
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	

Believe It or Not:

- With no wind or rain, the footprints

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.

63.

Important events in Indian History

1526 — First Battle of Panipat

1556 — 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)

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

conducted at Pokhran, Rajasthan

1975 — First Indian satellite,
Aryabhata, 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)

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

64.

Important events in World History

563 BC — Birth of Lord Buddha

4 BC — Birth of Jesus Christ

570 AD — Birth of Prophet Muhammad

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

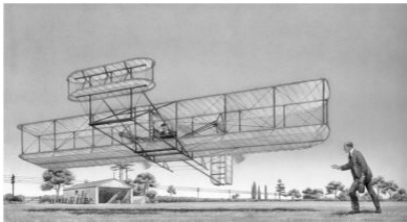
1991 — USSR disintegrated into 15 Republics

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

65.

Fictional Characters and their Creators

Here are some famous fictional characters and their creators :

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

James Bond	
Mickey Mouse	
Mowgli	Rudyard Kipling
Romeo	William Shakespeare
Shakuntala	Kalidas
Sherlock Holmes	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Believe It or Not:

- 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 different birds.

- 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

mentally ill people.

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

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 meals and drinks at a cheap rate.

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

Cloakroom — a room for keeping luggage at a railway station or in any public building.

Convent — a building in which nuns live.

Creche — a place where babies are looked after while their parents work, shop, etc.

Crematory — a place where dead people are burnt.

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 aircraft.

Hangar — a large shed in which aircraft are kept.

Harbour — an area of water in which ships can take shelter.

Kiln — a place where bricks are made.

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

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.



Castle

67.

Different Subjects

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

Archaeology — the study of ancient

cultures, people and periods of history by scientific analysis of their material remains.

Astrology — the study of the positions and movements of the stars and planets 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

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

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

Lexicography — the art of writing and editing dictionaries.

Numismatics — the study and collection of coins and medals.

Philately — the study and collection of postage stamps.

Philology — the study of the historical development of languages or a particular language.

Phonetics — the study of speech sounds, their pronunciation and their

production.

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

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

Believe It or Not:

- 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 middleman in bargains.

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

Cartographer — a person who draws 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.

Draper — a person who sells clothes.

Florist — a person who sells flowers.

Goldsmith — a person who makes

articles of gold.

Grocer — a person who sells food in packets and general small household goods.

Jockey — a person who rides in horse races.

Lexicographer — a person who writes and edits dictionaries.

Lyricist — a person who writes the words of songs.

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

pipes and taps.

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

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.



Choreographer

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

foreign country and represents there his or her own country.

Atheist — a person who does not believe in the existence of God.

Auction — a public event at which 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

for better opportunities.

Calligraphy — an art of beautiful handwriting.

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.

Curfew — an official order for the civilians to stay indoors for a specific period.

Epicure — a person fond of food and drink of high quality.

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 being required.

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

Licence — a written permission from the government to carry out a trade or use something.

Lullaby — a soft gentle song sung to make a child go to sleep.

Manifesto — declaration of principles and policies by a political party on the eve of a general election.

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

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

where the king or the queen is the head.

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

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

Orphan — a child whose parents are dead.

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.

Patent — an official document giving 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.

Piracy — illegal copying of books, 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.

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

skill, especially in medicine.

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.

Republic — a system of government in which there is an elected president, but no king or queen.

Royalty — the percentage to which a 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 appear in a law court at a specific time.

Theist — a person who believes in the existence of God.

Universal — a law, theory, etc. which is applicable to all or same anywhere.

Veteran — a person who has a long 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

recordings to her credit.

- Santosh Yadav is the only woman in the world to have climbed Mount 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

weighed 17 kg.

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

- India leads the world in cattle population. There are over 80 million draught animals in India.
- India has the largest postal network in the world. It has 1,53,454 post offices of which 89% are in the rural areas.
- The State Bank of India has the maximum number of branches. It has over 9,000 branches with 51 foreign 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 average annual rainfall of 467 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 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.

- India is the largest producer of tea in 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 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

Calcutta Review in English since 1844.

Number of Daily Newspapers

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

The Times of India, having twelve editions in English. It has a circulation of 21,52,000.

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

ordinary Chandamama which is a monthly.

News Ngencies

Press Trust of India (PTI), started in 1947;

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

72.

The Top 5

Largest Continents	
<i>Continent</i>	<i>Approx. area (sq. km)</i>

1. Asia		4,44,93,000
2. Africa		3,02,93,000
3. North America		2,44,54,000
4. South America		1,78,38,000
5. Antarctica		1,42,00,000

Largest Oceans

<i>Ocean</i>	<i>Approx. area (sq. km)</i>
1. Pacific Ocean	
2. Atlantic Ocean	16,62,40,000
3. Indian Ocean	8,22,17,000
	7,34,26,000

4. Southern Ocean	2,03,27,000
5. Arctic Ocean	1,39,86,000

Largest Countries

<i>Country</i>	<i>Area (sq. km)</i>
1. Russia	1,70,75,400
2. Canada	99,70,537
3. China	95,96,961
4. USA	93,72,614
5. Brazil	85,11,965

Largest Seas

<i>Sea</i>	<i>Approx. area (sq. km)</i>
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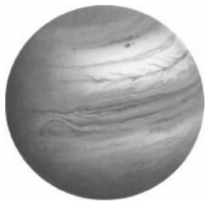
1. Coral Sea	47,91,000
2. Arabian Sea	38,64,000
3. South China Sea	36,86,000
4. Caribbean Sea	27,53,000
5. Mediterranean Sea	25,15,000

Smallest Countries

<i>Country</i>	<i>Area (sq. km)</i>
1. Vatican City	0.44
2. Monaco	1.95
3. Nauru	21.23
4. Tuvalu	26.00
5. San Marino	61.00

Largest Planets

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



Jupiter

Countries with the Highest Population

<i>Country</i>	<i>Estimated population (2009)</i>
1. China	1,33,00,44,000
2. India	1,14,79,95,000
3. USA	30,38,24,000
4. Indonesia	23,75,12,000
5. Brazil	19,19,08,000

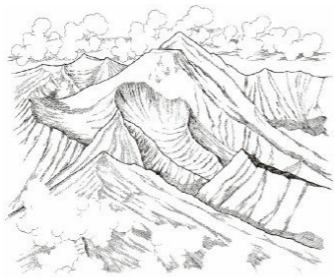
Organized Religions

<i>Religion</i>	<i>Followers</i>
1. Christianity	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

Highest Mountains

<i>Mountain</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Height (m)</i>
1. Everest	Nepal- Tibet	8,850
2. K 2 (Godwin-Austen)	Kashmir- China	
3. Kanchenjunga	Nepal- Sikkim	8,611
4. Lhotse	Nepal- Tibet	8,598
5. Makalu	Nepal- Tibet	8,501
	Nepal- Tibet	8,470



Mount Everest

Largest Human Organs

<i>Organ</i>		<i>Average weight (g)</i>
1. Liver		1,560
2. Brain	male	1,410
	female	1,265
3. Lungs	right	580
	left	510

	total	1,090
4. Heart	male	315
	female	265
5. Kidney	left	150
	right	140
	total	290

Largest Deserts

<i>Desert</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Approx. area (sq. km)</i>
1. Sahara	North Africa	
2. Arabian	Southwest	90,00,000
3. Gobi	Asia	23,30,000
4.	Mongolia-	12,95,000

Patagonian	China	6,73,000
5. Great Basin	Argentina Southwest USA	4,92,000

Longest Rivers	
<i>River</i>	<i>Length (km)</i>
1. Nile (Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Egypt)	
2. Amazon (Brazil)	6,670
3. Yangtze Kiang (China)	6,450
4. Mississippi-Missouri-Red Rock (USA)	6,300
	5,970
5. Yenisey-Angara-Selenga	5,540

(Russia)

Largest Lakes

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

Highest Waterfalls

<i>Waterfall</i>	<i>River</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Drop (m)</i>
1. Angel	Caroni	Venezuela	980
2. Tugela	Tugela	South Africa	948
3. Utigard	Jostedal Glacier	Norway	800
4. Mongefossen	Monge	Norway	774
5. Yosemite	Yosemite Creek	USA	739

Most Widely Spoken Languages

<i>Language</i>	<i>No. of speakers</i>
1. Mandarin Chinese	1,00,00,00,000

2. English	52,00,00,000
3. Hindi	45,00,00,000
4. Spanish	35,00,00,000
5. Russian	30,00,00,000

Highest Mountains

<i>Mountain</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Height (m)</i>
1. Everest	Nepal- Tibet	
2. K 2 (Godwin- Austen)	Kashmir- China	8,850
3. Kanchenjunga	Nepal- Sikkim	8,611
4. Lhotse		8,598
5. Makalu	Nepal- Tibet	8,501
		8,470

	Nepal- Tibet	
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Largest Islands

<i>Island</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Approx. area (sq. km)</i>
1. Greenland	Arctic Ocean	
2. New Guinea	West Pacific Ocean	21,75,600 7,89,900
3. Borneo	Indian Ocean	7,51,000
4. Madagascar	Indian Ocean	5,87,040 5,07,450
5. Baffin	Arctic	

	Ocean	
--	-------	--

Deadliest Snakes

<i>Species</i>	<i>Native Region</i>
1. Taipan	Australia & New
2. Black Mamba	Guinea
3. Tiger Snake	Southern & Central
4. Common Krait	Africa
5. Death Adder	South Asia Australia



Black Mamba

Tallest Habitable Buildings

<i>Building</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Storeys</i>	<i>Height(m)</i>
1. Burj Dubai			
2. Taipei 101			
3. Shanghai World Financial	Dubai (UAE) Taipei (Taiwan)	162 101	818 509

Centre	Shanghai	101	492
4.	Kuala	88	452
Petronas	Lumpur	110	442
Twin Towers	Chicago		
5. Wills Tower (Sears)			

Commonest Phobias

<i>Object of Phobia</i>	<i>Medical Term</i>
1. Spiders	Arachnophobia
2. People & social situations	Anthrophobia or Sociophobia
3. Flying	Aerophobia
4. Heights	Acrophobia or

5. Confined spaces	Altophobia Claustrophobia
--------------------	------------------------------

Longest Bridges		
<i>Bridge</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>
1. Akashi Kaikyo (1998)	Japan	1,991
2. Store Baelte (1998)	Denmark	1,624
	UK	1,410
3. Humber (1981)	China	1,385
4. Jiangyin (1998)	China	1,377
5. Tsing Ma (1997)		

73.

Miscellaneous

UNION TERRITORIES OF INDIA			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Area</i> (sq. km)	<i>Populati</i>

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,

COMMISSIONED RANKS IN INDIAN FORCE

The following are the commissioned ranks in the three services, beginning with the highest rank and going down the order; each rank is shown opposite its equivalent in the other service:

<i>Army</i>	<i>Navy</i>	<i>Air Force</i>
General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Air Marshal
Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal

Brigadier	Commodore	Air Commodore
Colonel	Captain	Group Captain
Lieutenant Colonel	Commander	Wing Commander
Major	Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader
Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant
Lieutenant	Sub Lieutenant	Flying Officer

**WORLD LEADERS
ASSASSINATED**

Abraham	President of the	1865
---------	------------------	------

Lincoln	United States	
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 Lanka	1993

Premadasa Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rehman	Lanka President of Bangladesh	1975
Zia-ur-Rehman	President of Bangladesh	1981
Benazir Bhutto	Former Prime Minister of Pakistan	2007

UNITS OF MEASUREMENTS

<i>Name of unit</i>	<i>Used to measure</i>
Ampere	Electric current
Calorie	Quantity of heat
Carat	Purity of gold
Celsius (Centigrade)	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

$$1 \text{ inch} = 2.54 \text{ cm}$$

12 inch = 1 foot

3 feet = 1 yard

1 mile = 1.6 km

1 nautical mile = 1.85 km

Weight

1 ounce = 28.35 g

16 ounce = 1 pound

1 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?

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

15. Which is the most populous state in India?

16. Who was the first President of India?

17. Which Indian President occupied the office for the shortest term?

18. Who was the first President of India to be elected unopposed?

19. Who was the President of India when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency in 1975?

20. Who is known as 'The Father of India's Missile Programme'?

21. Who was the youngest Prime Minister of India?

22. Which Indian Prime Minister died in Russia?

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

Arabia?

34. What is the single currency of the 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 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 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?
51. Which capital city is situated on the

banks of river Thames?

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 ping-pong?

60. Which ball game is played in the largest ground?

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

in double trap shooting in Athens Olympics, 2004?

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

75. Who was the captain of the Indian cricket team that won the World Cup in 1983?

76. Which game is Baichung Bhutia associated with?

77. What was the original name of 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 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

in karate?

85. What colour is the card that means 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 basketball?

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 is associated with?

94. Which game the Maracana 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

Black Pearl’?

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’?

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?

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

123. Which is the largest prison in 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?

127. Which is the largest river in the world?

128. Which is the largest and deepest Ocean?

129. Which is the lowest point on 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?

139. Which Indian scientist won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1968?

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?

145. Which invention is usually credited to Johannes Gutenberg?

146. Who propounded 'The Theory of Evolution'?

147. Which scientist obtained the most

patents from the US patent office?

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

149. What device is used by submarine 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

rings around it?

155. Which is the largest organ in our body?

156. What is the largest bone in our 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

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?

172. Which Indian astronaut died in the Columbia Space Shuttle explosion in 2003?

173. In which year did people first walk on the moon?

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 coined called?

179. What we call a room at a railway

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?

188. Which is the longest railway platform in the world?

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 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 Nature
5. Valmiki
6. Vikram Seth
7. Sir Richard Burton
8. Rudyard Kipling
9. 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

19. 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
77. Cassius Clay
78. France

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 (US 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.

Index

[abbreviations](#)

animals

[deadliest snakes](#)

[facts](#)

national parks and sanctuaries
records

assassinations, world leaders

awards

Bharat Ratna

national

Nobel Prize

Bharat Ratna

body facts

books

India

world

bridges, longest

buildings, tallest

capitals

countries

Indian states

Chandrashekhar, Dr. S.

changed names of some places

cities and industries

commissioned ranks in indian force

continents

largest

conversion factors

countries

capitals

currencies

languages

largest

natives

population

Religions

smallest

cricket, World Cup

currencies

dances of india

dates, historic

india

world

days, important

defence, ranks

defining places

deserts, largest

discoveries, scientific

diseases

epithets, geographical
facts

animalss

human body

India

planets

festivals

fictional characters and their creators

first in

India

world

founders, famous

games

national

Olympic

history, important events

India

world

human body

diseases

facts

organs, largest

India

industrial cities

instruments, scientific

inventions

islands, largest

Khorana, Dr. Har Gobind

lakes, largest

languages

countries

Indian states

most widely spoken

largest, tallest.....

animals

India

top 5

world

measurements, sports

media, print

monuments

India

seven wonders

world

mountains, largest

museums

national parks and sanctuaries

nationalities of famous personalities

natives of different countries

newspapers and periodicals

nobel laureates, indian

Nobel Prize

Nobel, Alfred Bernhard

oceans, largest

old and new names

Olympic games

India's achievements

persons, famous

assassinated

founders

nationalities

slogans

titles

phobias, commonest

places, definitions

planets

largest

players, number of

playgrounds, names of

population

presidents of india

prime ministers of india

professionals

Raman, Sir C.V.

records

[animals](#)

[India\(ns\)](#)

record makers

[India](#)

[world](#)

religions

[countries](#)

[Top 5](#)

rivers

[cities](#)

[longest](#)

science

[branches](#)

[discoveries](#)

[instruments](#)

inventions

planets

seas, largest

Sen, Dr. Amartya

Seven Wonders

sites, famous

India

world

slogans

snakes, deadliest

Soccer, World Cup

sports cups and trophies

sports measurements

sports stadiums

India (places associated with sports)

international (places associated with sports)

sports

cups and trophies

measurements

names of playgrounds

national games

number of players

olympic games

sportspersons

stadiums, india

stadium, international (places associated with sports)

terms

World Cup Cricket

World Cup Soccer

subjects, different

superlatives

India

world

symbols, national

Tagore, Rabindranath

Teresa, Mother

terms, important

titles

geographical

persons

top 5

cups and trophies, sports

union territories of india

United Nations

units of measurements

vitamins

waterfalls, highest

World Cup

cricket

soccer

World Records held by India(ns)

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