

MISCELLANEOUS

A. General Information

I. List of Abbreviations:

A

AAFI	Amateur Athletics Federation of India
AAPSO	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation
AASU	All Assam Students Union
ABM	Anti Ballistic Missile
AC	Alternate Current / Ashok Chakra / Air Conditioner / Antarctic Club
ACC	Anxillary Cadet Core
AD	Ano Domini (After the birth of Jesus)
ADB	Asian Development Bank .
AERE	Atomic Energy Research Establishment
AGOC	Asian Games Organisation Committee
AICC	All India Congress Committee
AICTE	All India Council of Technical Education
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
AIFE	All India Football Federation
AIIMS	All India Institute of Medical Sciences
AIL	Aeronautics India Limited
AIMPLB	All India Muslim Personal Law Board
AIR	All India Radio (<i>Broadcasting</i>)
AITUE	All India Trade Union Congress
AM	Anti Meridian (<i>Before Noon</i>)
ANC	African National Congress
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APSC	Army Postal Services Core
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASLV	Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle
ASI	Archaeological Survey of India
ASSOCHAM	Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (<i>India</i>)
ASWAC	Airborne Surveillance Warning and Control
ATS	Anti Tetanus Serum

B

BAMS	Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery
BARC	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BC	Before Christ (<i>Before the birth of Jesus</i>)

BCG	Bacillus Calmette Guerin (<i>Anti TB Vaccine</i>)
BCCI	Board of Control for Cricket in India
BEL	Bharat Electronics Limited
BENELUX	Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg
BHEL	Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited
BIFR	Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (<i>Formerly Industrial Reconstruction Finance Board</i>)
BIMSTEC	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation
BIS	Bureau of Indian Standards
B Pharma	Bachelor of Pharmacy
BSF	Border Security Force
C	
CAD	Command Area Development
CAG	Comptroller and Auditor General
CARE	Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere
CASE	Commission for Alternative Sources of Energy
CAT	Central Administrative Tribunal, Computerised Axial Tomography
CAZRI	Central Arid Zone Research Institute
CBI	Central Bureau of Investigation
CBSE	Central. Board of Secondary Education
CCEA	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
CCS	Cabinet Committee on Security
C-DAC	Centre For Development of Advance Computing
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access
CDRI	Central Drug Research Institute
CDS	Compulsory Deposit Scheme
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CISF	Central Industrial Security Force
CITU	, Centre of Indian Trade Unions
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
COD	Central Ordnance Depot
COFEPOSA	Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Act
CPO	Central Passport Organisation
CPRI	Central Power Research Institute
CRPF	Central Reserve Police Force
CRR	Cash Reserve Ratio
CSIR	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
CSO	Central Statistical Organisation
CTS	Computerised Tomography Scanner
CVC	Central Vigilance Commission

D

DDT	Dichloro Diphenyle Tri-chloroethane
DFDR	'Digital Flight Data Recorder (Black box)'
DIG	Deputy Inspector General
D.Lit.	Doctor of Literature
DM	District Magistrate
DMK	Dravida Munetra Kazhagam
DNA	Di-oxyribo-Nucleic Acid
DPAP	'Drought Prone Area Programme
DPC	Dabhol Power Company
DPSA	Deep Penetration Strike Aircraft
DRDO	Defence Research and Development Organisation
DTH	Direct to Home
DVD	Digital Versatile Disk

E

EAS	Employment Assurance Scheme
ECD	European Central Bank
ECG	Electro Cardiogram
EEC	European Economic Community
EEG	Electro Encephalogram
ELISA	Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay
EMF	Electromotive Force
EPABX	Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
ERDA	Energy Research and Development Administration
ESMA	Essential Services Maintenance Act
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
EXIM Bank	Export-Import Bank of India

F

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation (<i>USA</i>)
FBTR	Fast Breeder Test Reactor
FCI	Food Corporation of India / Fertilizer Corporation of India
FDR	Flight Data Recorder (<i>Black Box</i>)
FERA	Foreign Exchange Regulation Act
FEMA	Foreign Exchange Management Act
FICCI	Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FIPB	Foreign Investment Promotion Board
FIR	First Information Report
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FTII	Films and Television Institute of India

FTZ Free Trade Zone

G

GAIL Gas Authority of India Limited
GATT General Agreement on Tariff and Trade
GIC General Insurance Corporation
GMT Greenwich Mean Time
GNLF Gorkha National Liberation Front
GNP Gross National Product
GPF General Provident Fund
GPO General Post Office
GPS Global Positioning System
GSI Geological Survey of India

H

HAC Hindustan Aluminium Corporation
HAL Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
HCF Highest Common Factor
HDFC Housing Development Finance Corporation
HIV Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
HMT Hindustan Machine Tools
HUDCO Housing and Urban Development Corporation
HYVS High Yield Variety Seeds

I

IAAI International Airport Authority of India
IAC Indian Airlines Corporation
IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
IARI Indian Agricultural Research Institute
IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (*World Bank*)
ICAR Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICBM Inter Continental Ballistic Missile
ICC International Cricket Council
ICFTU International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ICICI Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited
ICJ International Court of Justice
ICMR Indian Council of Medical Research
ICSI Indian Company Secretaries Institute
IDA International Development Agency
IDBI Industrial Development Bank of India
IDO International Defence Organisation
IDPL Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited
IFA Indian Football Association
IFCI Industrial Finance Corporation of India

IFFI	International Film Festival of India
IFFCO	Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative
IFTU	International Federation of Trade Unions
IIPA	Indian Institute of Public Administration
IIS	Indian Institute of Sciences
IISCO	Indian Iron and Steel Company
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMA	Indian Military Academy
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGCA	Indira Gandhi Gallery for Culture and Art
INS	Indian Naval Ship
INSAT	Indian National Satellite
INTELSAT	International Telecommunication Satellite
INTERPOL	International Police Organisation
INTUC	Indian National Trade Union Congress
IOC	International Olympic Committee / Indian Oil Corporation
IPC	Indian Penal Code
IPKF	Indian Peace Keeping Force
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
IRBM	Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile
IRC	International Red Cross
IRDA	Insurance Regulatory Development Authority
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Programme
ISB	Indian Standard Bureau
ISM	Indian School of Mines
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
ISP	Internet Services Provider
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organisation
IST	Indian Standard Time
ITBP	Indo-Tibet Border Police
ITDC	Indian Tourism Development Corporation
ITPO	Indian Trade Promotion Organisation
ITO	International Trade Organisation
ITUC	Indian Trade Union Congress

J

JMM	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha
------------	------------------------

K

KG	Kinder Garten
-----------	---------------

L

LASER	Light Amplification By Stimulated Emission of Radiation
--------------	---

LIC	Life Insurance Corporation of India
LLB	Bachelor of Law
LLM	Master of Law
LMG	Light Machine Gun
LoC	Line of Control (<i>Pakistan</i>)
LoAC	Line of Actual Control (<i>China</i>)
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LSD	Lysergic acid di-ethylamide
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam
M	
MA	Master of Arts
MASER	Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
MBT	Main Battle Tank
MCA	Monetary Compensatory Allowance / Master of Computer Application
MCC	Melbourne Cricket Club
MD	Doctor of Medicine
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MI	Military Intelligence
MISA	Maintenance of Internal Security Act
MIT	Mechachusetts Institute of Technology (<i>USA</i>)
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MLC	Member of Legislative Council
MNC	Multi National Corporation
MRCP	Member of Royal College of Physicians
MRCS	Member of Royal College of Surgeons
MRTPC	Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission
MODVAT	Modified Value Added Tax

N

NABARD	National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development
NACO	National AIDS Control Organisation
NAEP	National Adult Education Programme
NAFED	National Agricultural and Marketing Federation
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NAPP	Narora Atomic Power Plant
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (<i>USA</i>)
NASDAQ	National Association of Security Dealer's Active Quotation
NASSCOM	National Association of Software & Service Companies
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NCW	National Commission for Women

NCCR	National Council for Civil Right
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research & Training
NDA	National Defence Academy
NDDB	National Dairy Development Board (<i>Anand, Gujarat</i>)
NDF	National Defence Fund .
NEERI	National Environment Engineering Research Institute
NEFA	North-East Frontier Agency
NEPA	National Environment Protection Authority
NFDC	National Film Development Corporation
NFL	National Fertilizer Limited
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NICO	New Information and Communication Order
NIDC	National Industrial Development Corporation
NIIT	National Institute of Information Technology
NIMHANS	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences
NITIE	National Institute for Training in Industrial Engineering
NMDS	National Missile Defence System (<i>US</i>)
NMEP	National Malaria Eradication Programme
NOIDA	New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
NPC	National Productivity Council
NPP	National Population Policy
NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
NRDC	National Research and Development Corporation
NREP	National Rural Employment Programme
NRI	Non Resident Indian
NSC	National Security Council
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
NTC	National Textile Corporation
NTPC	National Thermal Power Corporation
O	
OGL	Open General Licence
OIL	Oil India Limited
OK	All Correct
ONGC	Oil and Natural Gas Commission
OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
P	
PCI	Press Council of India
PCS	Provincial Civil Services
Ph. D	Doctor of 'Philosophy
PIN	Postal Index Number
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organisation
PM	Post Meridian / Prime Minister

POTA	Prevention of Terrorism Act
PSLV	Polar. Satellite Launch Vehicle
PTI	Press Trust of India
PRO	Public Relations Officer
PTO	Please Turn Over
PVC	Poly Vinyl Chloride / Paramvir Chakra
PVSM	Param Vishisht Seva Medal
PWD	Public Work's Department
PWG	People's War Group
Q	
QED	Quod Erat Demonstrandum (Which was to be proved)
QEF	Quod Erat Faciendum (Which was to be done)
QEI	Quod Erat Inveniendum (Which was to be found)
QMG	Quarter Master General
R	
RADAR	Radio Angle Direction and Range
RAW	Research and Analysis Wing
R & D	Research and Development
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
RCC	Reinforced Cement Concrete
RDX	Research Developed Explosive
RIMC	Rashtriya Indian Military College
RMS	Railway Mail Service
RLEGP	Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme
RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
RPM	Revolutions Per Minute
RSS	Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh
RTO	Regional Transport Officer
S	
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAC	Space Application Centre
SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Agreement
SAI	Sports Authority of India
SAIL	Steel Authority of India Limited
SAPTA	South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SC	Security Council/Supreme Court
SCI	Shipping Corporation of India
SCOPE	Standing Conference of Public Enterprises
SCRA	Special Class Railway Apprentice
SDR	Special Drawing Rights

SEBI	Security Exchange Board of India
SGPC	Siromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee
SHAR	Shri Harikota Range
SIDBI	Small Industries Development Bank of India
SIS	Secret Intelligence Service (U.K)
SITA	Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act
SLV	Satellite Launch Vehicle
SPCA	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals
SPICMC	Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical music and culture
STARS	Satellite Tracking and Ranging Station
STD	Subscribers Trunk Dialing
STPI	Software Technology Parks of India
SWAPO	South West African People's Organisation

T

TA	Travelling Allowance / Territorial Army
TC	Transfer Certificate, Trusteeship Council
TELCO	Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company
TELEX	Teleprinter Exchange
TISCO	Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited
TNT	Tri-nitro-toluene
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language
TRAI	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
TRIPS	Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights
TTE	Travelling Ticket Examiner
TTFI	Table Tennis Federation of India
TWA	Trans World Airlines (USA)

U

UDC	Upper Division Clerk
UFO	Unidentified Flying Object
UGC	University Grants Commission
UHT	Ultra High Temperature
ULFA	United Liberation Front of Assam
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Economic Social and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNI	United News of India
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNO	United Nations Organisation

UPS	Uninterrupted Power Supply
UPSC	Union Public Service Commission
USP	Unique Selling Proposition,
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republic
UTI	Unit Trust of India

V

VAT	Value Added Tax
VDIS	Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme
VC	Vice-Chancellor / Victoria Cross
VIP	Very Important Person
VPP	Value Payable Post
VRS	Voluntary Retirement Scheme
VSNL	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
VSSC	Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

W

WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organisation
WILL	Wireless in Local Loop
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WWF	World Wild Life Fund
WPI	Wholesale Price Index
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WWF	World Wild Life Fund for Nature
WWW	World Wide Web

X

X-tian	Christian
---------------	-----------

Y

YMCA	Young Men's Christians Association
YWCA	Young Women's Christians Association

Z

ZBB	Zero Based Budgeting
ZPG	Zero Population Growth
ZS	Zoological Society
ZSI	Zoological Survey of India

II. Geographical epithets:

Bengal's Sorrow	Damodar River
Blue Mountains	Nilgiri Hills
Britain of the South	New Zealand
City of Palaces	Kolkata
City of Skyscrapers	New York
City of Dreaming Spires	Oxford, England
City of Golden Gate	San Francisco
City of Seven Hills	Rome, Italy
City of Magnificent Distances	Washington D.C.
Cockpit of Europe	Belgium
China's Sorrow	Hawang Ho
Dakshin Ganga	Godavari
Dark Continent	Africa
Diamond Harbour	Calcutta
Emerald Island	Ireland
Empire City	New York
Eternal City	Rome, Italy
Forbidden City	Lhasa, Tibet
Gate of Tears	Bab-el-mandab, Jerusalem
Garden City of India	Bangalore
Gateway of India	Mumbai
Great White Way	Broadway, New York
Gift of Nile	Egypt
Holy Land	Palestine
Hermit Kingdom	Korea
Island Continent	Australia
Island of Pearls	Bahrain
Island of Cloves	Madagascar
Key to the Gibraltar	Mediterranean
Land of Kangaroo	Australia
Land of Golden Pagoda	Burma (Myanmar)
Land of Maple	Canada
Land of Thousand Lakes	Finland
Land of Morning Calm	Korea
Land of Midnight Sun	Norway
Land of Five Rivers	Punjab, India
Land of White Elephant	Thailand
Land of Thunderbolt	Bhutan
Never, Never Land	Prairies, N. Australia
Pearl of Antilles	Cuba
Pillars of Hercules	Strait of Gibraltar
Pearl of the Pacific	Guyayaquil Port of Ecuador
Playground of Europe	Switzerland

Queen of the Arabian Sea	Cochin, India
Roof of the World	Pamirs, Central Asia
Rose-pink City	Jaipur
Sorrow of Bihar	Kosi
Sorrow of China	River Hwang Ho, China
Spice Garden of India	Kerala
Sick Man of Europe	Turkey
Sugar Bowl of the World	Cuba
The City of Nawabs	Lucknow
The Land of Kangaroo	Australia
Venice of the East	Cochin, India
Venice of the North	Stockholm, Sweden
White City	Belgrade, Yugoslavia
White Man's Grave	Guinea Coast
World's Loneliest Island	Tristan da Cunha
World's Bread Basket	Prairies of N. America

III. Currencies of the World:

Country	Currency	ISO-4217
A		
Afghanistan	Afghan afghani	AFN
Albania	Albanian lek	ALL
Algeria	Algerian dinar	DZD
Andorra	European euro	EUR
Angola	Angolan kwanza	AOA
Anguilla	East Caribbean dollar	XCD
Antigua and Barbuda	East Caribbean dollar	XCD
Argentina	Argentine peso	ARS
Armenia	Armenian dram	AMD
Aruba	Aruban florin	AWG
Australia	Australian dollar	AUD
Austria	European euro	EUR
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijani manat	AZN
B		
Bahamas	Bahamian dollar	BSD
Bahrain	Bahraini dinar	BHD
Bangladesh	Bangladeshi taka	BDT
Barbados	Barbadian dollar	BBD
Belarus	Belarusian ruble	BYR
Belgium	European euro	EUR
Belize	Belize dollar	BZD
Benin	West African CFA franc	XOF
Bhutan	Bhutanese ngultrum	BTN

Bolivia	Bolivian boliviano	BOB
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina konvertibilna marka	BAM
Botswana	Botswana pula	BWP
Brazil	Brazilian real	BRL
Brunei	Brunei dollar	BND
Bulgaria	Bulgarian lev	BGN
Burkina Faso	West African CFA franc	XOF
Burundi	Burundi franc	BIF
C		
Cambodia	Cambodian riel	KHR
Cameroon	Central African CFA franc	XAF
Canada	Canadian dollar	CAD
Cape Verde	Cape Verdean escudo	CVE
Cayman Islands	Cayman Islands dollar	KYD
Central African Republic	Central African CFA franc	XAF
Chad	Central African CFA franc	XAF
Chile	Chilean peso	CLP
China	Chinese renminbi	CNY
Colombia	Colombian peso	COP
Comoros	Comorian franc	KMF
Congo	Central African CFA franc	XAF
Congo, Democratic Republic	Congolese franc	CDF
Costa Rica	Costa Rican colon	CRC
Côte d'Ivoire	West African CFA franc	XOF
Croatia	Croatian kuna	HRK
Cuba	Cuban peso	CUC
Cyprus	European euro	EUR
Czech Republic	Czech koruna	CZK
D		
Denmark	Danish krone	DKK
Djibouti	Djiboutian franc	DJF
Dominica	East Caribbean dollar	XCD
Dominican Republic	Dominican peso	DOP
E		
East Timor	uses the U.S. Dollar	USD
Ecuador	uses the U.S. Dollar	USD
Egypt	Egyptian pound	EGP
El Salvador	uses the U.S. Dollar	USD
Equatorial Guinea	Central African CFA franc	GQE
Eritrea	Eritrean nakfa	ERN
Estonia	Estonian kroon	EEK
Ethiopia	Ethiopian birr	ETB
F		
Falkland Islands	Falkland Islands pound	FKP

Fiji	Fijian dollar	FJD
Finland	European euro	EUR
France	European euro	EUR
French Polynesia	CFP franc	XPF
G		
Gabon	Central African CFA franc	XAF
Gambia	Gambian dalasi	GMD
Georgia	Georgian lari	GEL
Germany	European euro	EUR
Ghana	Ghanaian cedi	GHS
Gibraltar	Gibraltar pound	GIP
Greece	European euro	EUR
Grenada	East Caribbean dollar	XCD
Guatemala	Guatemalan quetzal	GTQ
Guinea	Guinean franc	GNF
Guinea-Bissau	West African CFA franc	XOF
Guyana	Guyanese dollar	GYD
H		
Haiti	Haitian gourde	HTG
Honduras	Honduran lempira	HNL
Hong Kong	Hong Kong dollar	HKD
Hungary	Hungarian forint	HUF
I		
Iceland	Icelandic króna	ISK
India	Indian rupee	INR
Indonesia	Indonesian rupiah	IDR
International Monetary Fund	Special Drawing Rights	XDR
Iran	Iranian rial	IRR
Iraq	Iraqi dinar	IQD
Ireland	European euro	EUR
Israel	Israeli new sheqel	ILS
Italy	European euro	EUR
J		
Jamaica	Jamaican dollar	JMD
Japan	Japanese yen	JPY
Jordan	Jordanian dinar	JOD
K		
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstani tenge	KZT
Kenya	Kenyan shilling	KES
Kiribati	Australian dollar	AUD
Korea North	North Korean won	KPW
Korea South	South Korean won	KRW
Kuwait	Kuwaiti dinar	KWD
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstani som	KGS

L		
Laos	Lao kip	LAK
Latvia	Latvian lats	LVL
Lebanon	Lebanese lira	LBP
Lesotho	Lesotho loti	LSL
Liberia	Liberian dollar	LRD
Libya	Libyan dinar	LYD
Liechtenstein	uses the Swiss Franc	CHF
Lithuania	Lithuanian litas	LTL
Luxembourg	European euro	EUR
M		
Macau	Macanese pataca	MOP
Macedonia (Former Yug. Rep.)	Macedonian denar	MKD
Madagascar	Malagasy ariary	MGA
Malawi	Malawian kwacha	MWK
Malaysia	Malaysian ringgit	MYR
Maldives	Maldivian rufiyaa	MVR
Mali	West African CFA franc	XOF
Malta	European Euro	EUR
Mauritania	Mauritanian ouguiya	MRO
Mauritius	Mauritian rupee	MUR
Mexico	Mexican peso	MXN
Micronesia	uses the U.S. Dollar	USD
Moldova	Moldovan leu	MDL
Monaco	European Euro	EUR
Mongolia	Mongolian tugrik	MNT
Montenegro	European Euro	EUR
Montserrat	East Caribbean dollar	XCD
Morocco	Moroccan dirham	MAD
Mozambique	Mozambican metical	MZM
Myanmar	Myanma kyat	MMK
N		
Namibia	Namibian dollar	NAD
Nauru	Australian dollar	AUD
Nepal	Nepalese rupee	NPR
Netherlands Antilles	Netherlands Antillean guilder	ANG
Netherlands	European euro	EUR
New Caledonia	CFP franc	XPF
New Zealand	New Zealand dollar	NZD
Nicaragua	Nicaraguan cordoba	NIO
Niger	West African CFA franc	XOF
Nigeria	Nigerian naira	NGN
Norway	Norwegian krone	NOK

O		
Oman	Omani rial	OMR
P		
Pakistan	Pakistani rupee	PKR
Palau	uses the U.S. Dollar	USD
Panama	Panamanian balboa	PAB
Panama Canal Zone	uses the U.S. Dollar	USD
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinean kina	PGK
Paraguay	Paraguayan guarani	PYG
Peru	Peruvian nuevo sol	PEN
Philippines	Philippine peso	PHP
Poland	Polish zloty	PLN
Portugal	European euro	EUR
Puerto Rico	uses the U.S. Dollar	USD
Q		
Qatar	Qatari riyal	QAR
R		
Romania	Romanian leu	RON
Russia	Russian ruble	RUB
Rwanda	Rwandan franc	RWF
S		
Saint Helena	Saint Helena pound	SHP
Saint Kitts and Nevis	East Caribbean dollar	XCD
Saint Lucia	East Caribbean dollar	XCD
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	East Caribbean dollar	XCD
Samoa (Western)	Samoan tala	WST
San Marino	European euro	EUR
Sao Tome and Principe	Sao Tome and Principe dobra	STD
Saudi Arabia	Saudi riyal	SAR
Senegal	West African CFA franc	XOF
Serbia	Serbian dinar	RSD
Seychelles	Seychellois rupee	SCR
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leonean leone	SLL
Singapore	Singapore dollar	SGD
Slovakia	Slovak koruna	SKK
Slovenia	European euro	EUR
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands dollar	SBD
Somalia	Somali shilling	SOS
South Africa	South African rand	ZAR
South Sudan	Sudanese pound	SDG
Spain	European euro	EUR
Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan rupee	LKR
Sudan	Sudanese pound	SDG
Suriname	Surinamese dollar	SRD

Swaziland	Swazi lilangeni	SZL
Sweden	Swedish krona	SEK
Switzerland	Swiss franc	CHF
Syria	Syrian pound	SYP
T		
Taiwan	New Taiwan dollar	TWD
Tajikistan	Tajikistani somoni	TJS
Tanzania	Tanzanian shilling	TZS
Thailand	Thai baht	THB
Togo	West African CFA franc	XOF
Tonga	Paanga	TOP
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago dollar	TTD
Tunisia	Tunisian dinar	TND
Turkey	Turkish new lira	TRY
Turkmenistan	Turkmen manat	TMM
Tuvalu	Australian dollar	AUD
U		
Uganda	Ugandan shilling	UGX
Ukraine	Ukrainian hryvnia	UAH
United Arab Emirates	UAE dirham	AED
United Kingdom	British pound	GBP
United States of America	United States dollar	USD
Uruguay	Uruguayan peso	UYU
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistani som	UZS
V		
Vanuatu	Vanuatu vatu	VUV
Vatican	European euro	EUR
Venezuela	Venezuelan bolivar	VEB
Vietnam	Vietnamese dong	VND
W		
Wallis and Futuna Islands	CFP franc	XPF
Y		
Yemen	Yemeni rial	YER
Z		
Zambia	Zambian kwacha	ZMK
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwean dollar	ZWD

IV. Countries & names of their parliaments:

Country	Parliament
Afghanistan	Shora
Andorra	General Council
Albania	People's Assembly
Azerbaijan	Melli Majlis
Algeria	National People's Assembly
Angola	National People's Assembly
Argentina	National Congress
Australia	Federal Parliament
Austria	National Assembly
Bahamas	General Assembly
Bahrain	Consultative Council
Bangladesh	Jatiya Sansad
Belize	National Assembly
Bhutan	Tsogdu
Bolivia	National Congress
Brazil	National Congress
Brunei	National Assembly
Botswana	National Assembly
Britain	Parliament (House of Common's and House of Lords)
Bulgaria	Narodno Subranie.
Cambodia	National Assembly
Congo Democratic	Rep. of National Legislative Council
Colombia	Congress
Canada	Parliament
China	National People's Assembly
Chile	Chamber of Deputies and Senate
Comoros	Legislative Council and Senate
Costa Rica	Legislative Council and Senate
Croatia	Sabor
Cuba	National Assembly of People's Power
Czech Republic	Chamber of Deputies and Senate
Denmark	Folketing
Ecuador	National Congress
El Salvador	Legislative Assembly
East Timor	Constituent Assembly
Ethiopia	Federal Council and House of Representative
Egypt	People's Assembly
Fiji Islands	Senate & House of Representative
France	National Assembly
Finland	Eduskunta (Parliament)
Germany	Bundestag (Lower House) and Bundesrat (Upper House)

Country	Parliament
Guyana	National Assembly
Greece	Chamber of Deputies
Hungry	National Assembly
Iceland	Althing
India	Sansad
Indonesia	People's Consultative Assembly
Iran	Majlis
Iraq	National Assembly
Israel	Knesset
Italy	Chamber of Deputies and Senate
Japan	Diet
Jordan	National Assembly
Korea(North)	Supreme People's Assembly
Korea(South)	National Assembly
Kuwait	National Assembly
Laos	People's Supreme Assembly
Labanon	National Assembly
Lesotho	National Assembly and Senate
Lithuania	Seimas
Luxembourg	Chamber of Deputies
Libya	General People's Congress
Malaysia	Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara
Maldives	Majlis
Madagascar	National People's Assembly
Mongolia	Great People's Khural
Montenegro	Federal Assembly
Mozambique	People's Assembly
Myanmar	Pyithu Hluttaw
Nepal	Rashtriya Panchayat
Netherlands	The Staten General
New Zealand	Parliament (House of Representative)
Oman	Monarchy
Pakistan	National Assembly & Senate
Paraguay	Senate & Chamber of Deputies
Philippines	The Congress
Papua New Guinea	National Parliament
Poland	Sejm
Romania	Great National Assembly
Russia	Duma & Federal Council
Serbia	Federal Assembly
Senegal	National Assembly
Seychelles	People's Assembly
South Africa Rep.	House of Assembly

Country	Parliament
Spain	Cortes
Sweden	Riksdag
Saudi Arabia	Majlis Al Shura
Sudan	Majlis Watani
Switzerland	Federal Assembly
Syria	People's Council
Turkey	Grand National Assembly
USA	Congress
Vietnam	National Assembly
Venezuela	National Congress
Zambia	National Assembly

V. Facts about the world's airports: The world's largest passenger movement airport is Heathrow Airport in London, U.K. The world's busiest cargo airport is the Chep Lak Kok International Airport in Hong Kong.

The airport with the world's largest traffic movement, that is passenger and cargo movement combined, is the Hartsfield - Jackson Airport in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

1. The World's Busiest Passenger Airports:

- London Heathrow.** (U.K) - 61,345,518 pax per annum
- Paris Charles De Gaulle.** (France) - 55,804,279 ppa.
- Amsterdam Schipol.** (Netherlands) - 47,349,319 ppa.
- Hong Kong International.** (China) - 47,201,000 ppa.
- Frankfurt International.** (Germany) - 46,707,577 ppa.
- Dubai International.** (United Arab Emirates) 36,592,307 ppa.
- Singapore Changi.** (Singapore) 36,288,050 ppa.
- Tokyo International.** (Japan) - 32,343,590 ppa.
- London Gatwick.** (U.K) 30,433,810 ppa.
- Madrid Barajas.** (Spain) - 30,135,120 ppa.

2. The World's Busiest Air Routes:

- Barcelona to Madrid.** (Spain)
- Sao Paulo to Rio De Janeiro.** (Argentina)
- Jeju to Gimpo.** (South Korea)
- Melbourne to Sydney.** (Australia)
- Cape Town to Johannesburg.** (South Africa)
- Mumbai to New Delhi.** (India)
- Chitose to Tokyo.** (Japan)
- Soekarno Hatta to Juanda.** (Indonesia)
- Honalulu to Kahului.** (Hawaii Islands)
- Fukuoka to Tokyo.** (Japan)

3. Countries Without Airports:

Five countries in the world do not have airports, although they do have heliports linking passengers to their nearest airport. They are;

Andorra.

Liechtenstein.

Monaco.

San Marino.

Vatican City.

4. The World's Highest Airports

La Paz, Bolivia (El Alto Airport, Cerro de Pasco) - 4,061 metres / 13,325 feet above sea level.

Lhasa, Tibet - 3,570 metres / 11,713 feet above sea level.

Cusco, Peru - 3,310 metres / 10,860 feet above sea level.

Lukla, Nepal - 2,860 metres / 9,383 feet above sea level.

Quito, Ecuador - 2,813 metres / 9,228 feet above sea level.

Bogota, Colombia - 2,628 / 8,361 feet above sea level.

Asmara, Eritrea - 2,335 metres above sea level.

San'a, Yemen - 2,199 metres / 7,216 feet above sea level.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - 2,334 metres / 7,656 feet above sea level.

Thimpu, Bhutan (Paro Airport) - 2230 metres / 7,300 feet above sea level.

Courcheval, France - 2,008 metres / 6,588 feet above sea level.

Maseru, Lesotho (Moshoeshe Airport) - 1,630 metres / 5,348 feet above sea level.

Kathmandu, Nepal - 1,338 metres / 4,390 feet above sea level.

5. The World's Largest Airports:

The world's largest airport by land area is the **King Fahad International Airport** in Saudi Arabia, which sits on 780 sq kms of land.

The world's largest airport building is at the **Sabiha Gokcen International Airport**, Istanbul, Turkey, which measures 18,580,60.8 sq metres or 20 million sq feet.

The world's largest airport terminal is Terminal Three of **Dubai International Airport** in the United Arab Emirates, which measures 185,000 square metres or 16.15 million square feet.

VI. Monarchies of the World: The word monarch comes from the Latin word *monarcha*, which pertained to any single, absolute ruler, although the term today has come to mean the sovereign of a nation who heads a traditional system of hereditary rule by order of succession by virtue of bloodline and lineage within a royal house or dynasty. The forty four monarchies around the world, also known as kingdoms, principalities, sultanates or emirates, come under five categories, Absolute Monarchies, Commonwealth Realms, Constitutional Monarchies, Elective Monarchies and Federal Monarchies. Below is a list of all the monarchies around the world, listed under their appropriate category.

1. Absolute Monarchies: An absolute monarchy has a head of state who rules as an autocrat with absolute power over both state and government. There are eight absolute monarchies around the world, they are;

Brunei - Asia - Sultanate.
Liechtenstein - Europe - Principality.
Monaco - Europe - Principality.
Oman - Arabia - Emirate.
Qatar - Arabia - Emirate.
Saudi Arabia - Arabia - Kingdom
Swaziland - Africa - Kingdom.
Vatican City State - Europe - Ex Officio.

2. Commonwealth Realms: The Commonwealth Realms are countries with a personal, union arrangement with the United Kingdom, which has been in effect since the days of the British Empire. Their monarch is Queen Elisabeth II, who has limited powers in these countries and is monarch in a ceremonial and or traditional capacity only. There are fifteen Commonwealth Realms around the world, they are;

Antigua & Barbuda - Caribbean
Australia - Oceania.
Bahamas - Caribbean.
Barbados - Caribbean.
Belize - Central America.
Canada - North America.
Grenada - Caribbean.
Jamaica - Caribbean.
New Zealand - Oceania.
Papua / New Guinea - Pacific.
Saint Kitts and Nevis - Caribbean.
Saint Lucia - Caribbean.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Caribbean.
Solomon Islands - South Pacific.
Tuvalu - South Pacific.

3. Constitutional Monarchies: A constitutional monarchy has a head of state who has limited political power within the running of the country, due to their being subject to a constitution, and is therefore monarch in a ceremonial and or traditional role only. There are twenty one constitutional monarchies around the world, they are;

Andorra - Europe - Diarchy / Co - Principality.*
Bahrain - Arabia - Emirate.
Belgium - Europe - Kingdom.
Bhutan - Asia - Kingdom.
Cambodia - Asia - Kingdom.
Denmark - Europe - Kingdom.

Japan - Asia - Monarch known as Emperor or Imperial Majesty.

Jordan - Middle East - Kingdom. * *

Kuwait - Arabia - Emirate.

Lesotho - Africa - Kingdom.

Luxembourg - Europe - Grand Duchy.

Malaysia - Asia - Monarch known as Supreme Head of State.

Morocco - North Africa - Kingdom.

Netherlands - Europe - Kingdom.

Norway - Europe - Kingdom.

Spain - Europe - Kingdom.

Sweden - Europe - Kingdom.

Thailand - Asia - Kingdom.

Tonga - South Pacific - Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates - Arabia - Monarch known as President.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Europe - Kingdom.

4. Elective Monarchies: An elective monarchy has a head of state who has been elected or appointed, for a defined period of time, by a particular ruling or governing body of a country. There are four elective monarchies around the world, they are;

Andorra - Europe

Malaysia - Asia.

Vatican City State - Europe.

United Arab Emirates - Arabia.

5. Federal Monarchies: A federal monarchy has a head of state who presides over a federation or group of smaller or lesser monarchies. There are two federal monarchies around the world, they are ;

Malaysia - Asia.

United Arab Emirates - Arabia.

Note:

- **Andorra** is the only country in the world which has two diarchs who act as the country's monarch. Known as the co - princes, they are traditionally the President of France and the Bishop of Urgell in Spain, making Andorra the only country in the world to have their monarch elected by the democratic vote of another country, or countries in Andorra's case.

- Jordan uses a form of elective monarchy, as the future monarch is always chosen by the current monarch, who is generally a member of the Jordanian Royal Family.

- The monarch or ex officio of the Vatican City State, is The Pope, who is the elected head of state of both the Roman Catholic Church and the Vatican City State, who after election, will remain absolute monarch until death.

VII. The world's mega – Structures

1. The world's largest, man made structures:

AIRPORT - 780 sq kms - The King Fahad International Airport, Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

AIRPORT BUILDING - 45.9 acres - Sabiha Gokcen International Airport, Istanbul, Turkey.

AIRPORT TERMINAL - 185,000 sq metres - Terminal Three, Dubai International Airport, UAE

BRIDGE - HIGHEST - 270 m - Millau Viaduct, Millau - Creissels, Aveyron, France.

BRIDGE - WIDEST - 1,991 m - Akashi - Kaikyo, Japan.

BRIDGE - OVER SEA - 42.4 kms / 26.4 miles - Connects Qingdao City with Huangdao Island, China.

CANAL, LONGEST - 1,794 km - The Grand Canal. Beijing - Hangzhou, China.

COURT HOUSE - 260,000 sq metres - Palace of Justice, Brussels, Belgium.

EARTHQUAKE PROOF BUILDING - 45.9 acres - Sabiha Gokcen Airport, Istanbul, Turkey.

FACTORY - 398,000 sq kms - The Boeing, aviation assembly factory - Everett, Washington State, U.S.A.

FOUNTAIN - Dubai Fountain, Burj Khalifa Lake, Dubai, UAE. - Width 275 m. Water projection height 150 metres.

HEMISPHERICAL BUILDING - Diameter 110 metres - 605,000 cubic sq metres - The Ericsson Globe, ice hockey arena and concert venue, Stockholm, Sweden.

HOTEL - 6,000 rooms - The Izmailovo Hotel, Moscow, Russia.

HYDRO - ELECTRIC DAM - 39,300,000 cu m - Three Gorges Dam, Sandouping, Hubei Province, China.

OFF SHORE WIND FARM - The Walney Wind Farm, Walney Island, Cumbria, England - 102 turbines on a 73 sq km site.

ON SHORE WIND FARM - The Alta Wind Energy Centre, Kern County, California USA - 320 turbines on a 9,000 acre site.

PALACE - 61,000 sq metres - The Caserta Palace, Italy

PARLIAMENT BUILDING - 330,000 sq metres - The Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest, Romania.

RAILTRACK - 9297.180 km - The Trans - Siberian Railway, Moscow - Vladivostock, Russia.

RAIL TUNNEL, LONGEST - 53.85 km - The Seikan Tunnel under the Tsugaru Strait, linking the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido in Japan.

ROADWAY, LONGEST - 24,140 km - The Pan - American Highway. Alaska - Brazil.

ROAD TUNNEL, LONGEST - The Laerdal Tunnel - 24.51 kms / 15.23 miles - Laerdal to Aurland, Norway.

WATER RETAINING DAM - 540,000 cu m - Syncrude Tailings, Alberta, Canada.

WATERWHEEL - Diameter of 21.9 metres - The Lady Isabella Waterwheel, Laxey, Isle of Man.

2. The World's Largest Religious Buildings:

ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL - There is a dispute as to which Anglican cathedral holds the record for being the largest. *The Saint John the Divine Cathedral* in New York City, USA covers an area of 11,200 sq metres, but is infact unfinished, where as the *Cathedral of the Church of Christ in Liverpool*, also known as the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, covers an area of 9,687 sq metres and is complete.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL - 11,200 sq m - The Cathedral of St Mary of the See, Seville, Spain.

CHURCH - 20,139 sq m - The Basilica of St Peter - Vatican City.

HINDU TEMPLE - 203 acres - Angkor Wat, Angkor, Cambodia.

MOSQUE - 900 acres - Al Masjid Al Haram, Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

MONASTERY - 250,000 sq kms - The Drepung Monastery, Lhasa, Tibet - Consists of seven colleges containing 7,700 Yellow Hat, Buddhist, monks.

3. The World's Tallest, Man Made Structures:

CLOCK TOWER - 240m - Tokyo, Japan.

DOME - 136.57m - St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

EARTHQUAKE PROOF TOWER - 310 m - The U.S Bank Tower, Los Angeles, California, USA.

ELECTRIC PYLON - 346.5 m - Jiangyin, China.

HOTEL - 333m - Rose Rotana Hotel, Dubai, UAE.

LIGHTHOUSE - 106m - Yokohama, Japan.

MINARET - 210m - Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca, Morocco.

SKYSCRAPER - 828 m - Burj Khalifa, Dubai, UAE.

T.V MAST - 628.8 m - KVLV- TV. Blanchard, North Dakota, USA.

4. The World's Largest Transport Systems:

The world's busiest train station, by passenger number, is **Shinjuku Station** in Tokyo, Japan, which serves 3.63 million passengers a day.

The world's largest passenger station, by area, is **Nagoya Station** in Aichi, Japan, at 446,000 sq metres.

The world's largest metro station, by area, is **Union Square Station** in Dubai, at 67,056 sq metres.

The station with the most platforms in the world is **Grand Central Station** in New York City, U.S.A, with 67 platforms.

The largest metro system in the world, is the **Shanghai Metro** in China, with 424.8 kilometres of track.

The world's busiest metro system, in terms of passenger usage, is the **Tokyo City Metro** in Japan with 8 million passengers a year.

The metro system with the most stations is the **New York City Subway** with 462.

The largest bus station in the world is the **Millenium Park Bus Station** in Delhi, India at 305,265 sq metres.

The largest underground bus station in the world is at the **Kamppi Centre** in Helsinki, Finland, which is covers an area of 25,000 sq metres.

5. The world's five largest rail networks are:

U.S.A. - 212,433 km.

Russia. - 87,157 km.

China. - 67,524 km.

India. - 63,694 km.

Germany. - 44,000 km .

6. The world's five largest road networks are:

U.S.A. - 6,370,031 km .

India. - 3,319,644 km.

Brazil. - 1,980,000 km.

China - 1,400,000 km.

Japan. - 1,152,207 km.

7. The world's five largest city metro systems are:

Shanghai, China - 434 km.

London. U.K. - 405 km.

New York, U.S.A. - 337 km.

Beijing, China - 336 km.

Moscow. Russia. - 301 km.

8. The American Society Of Civil Engineers - Modern Wonders Of The World:

Channel Tunnel. - 1987 - 1994. English Channel, linking the United Kingdom with mainland Europe.

C.N Tower. - 1973 - 1976. - Toronto, Canada.

Empire State Building. - 1930 - 1931. New York, U.S.A.

Golden Gate Bridge. - 1933 - 1937. San Francisco , U.S.A.

Taipu Dam. - 1970 - 1984. Brazil / Paraguay border.

Zuiderzee Works. - 1950 - 1997. The Netherlands.

Panama Canal. - 1904 - 1914. Panama.

9. The seven wonders of the ancient World:

Colossus of Rhodes - Island of Rhodes, Greece.

Great Pyramid at Giza - Giza, Egypt - The only structure on the list that still remains to this day.

Hanging Gardens of Babylon - Ancient Mesopotamia - Modern day Al Hillah, Iraq.

Lighthouse at Alexandria - Alexandria, Egypt.

Mausoleum of Halicarnassus - Caria, Ancient Greece - Modern day Bodrum, Turkey.

Statue of Zeus at Olympia - Elis, Greece.

Temple of Artemis at Ephesus - Ancient Greece - Modern day Selcuk, Turkey

VIII. The world's most widely spoken languages: The world's 6,692,030,277, population speak around 6,500 languages between them. A dialect is defined as a variety of another largely spoken language, or by a speech pattern that alters a largely spoken language.

An accent is defined as a manner of pronunciation defined by area or geographical location, or by speech of a language which is not natural to the speaker.

A language is classified by having at least 1,000 natural speakers, although there are many languages worldwide that have less than this number.

1. The world's ten most widely spoken languages:

Chinese (Mandarin) - 836,132,000.
Spanish - 332,000,000.
English (As a first language) 322,000,000.
Bengali - 189,000,000.
Hindi - 182,000,000.
Arabic -174,950,000.
Portugese - 170,000,000.
Russian - 170,000,000.
Japanese - 125,000,000.
German - 98,000,000.

2. Countries with the highest number of national languages: Below is a list of the countries that have the most nationally recognised languages in the world.

Papua New Guinea - 820 recognised languages - Official language **English**.
Indonesia - 742 recognised languages - Official language **Indonesian**
Nigeria - 516 recognised languages - Official language **English**.
India - 427 recognised languages - Official languages **English** and **Hindi**.
China - 241 recognised languages - Official language **Mandarin**.
Brazil - 200 recognised languages - Official language **Portugese**.
PHILIPPINES - 175 recognised languages - Official languages **Filipino** and **English**.

3. The world's oldest languages: No one really knows for sure which language is the world's oldest as there are vast differences between old spoken languages and their written forms. Languages also evolve over time, making their modern day equivalents totally unrecognisable from their original form. Many of the world's modern languages stem from a mixture of several languages, making them totally different from their original root language.

However, linguists have ascertained that the world's oldest written form of languages are most probably the two ancient languages of **Sumerian** , spoken in Mesopotamia - modern day Iraq - from around 3,000 BC until around 1,800 BC and **Egyptian**, spoken in modern day Egypt, from around 3,000 BC until around the 17th century.

The world's oldest, surviving, spoken languages have been identified as **Albanian, Armenian, Bantu, Basque, Tamil** and **Welsh**.

However, some linguists are now of the opinion that the Australian, Aboriginal language of **Pama Nyungan** could well have survived since the Ice Age.

4. The world's youngest language: According to linguists, the world's youngest language is **Afrikaans**, spoken in South Africa. The language comes from the Germanic family of languages and is descended from Dutch and German Protestants fleeing persecution from the Roman Catholic Church during the 17th century.

5. Language Isolates: There are several language isolates around the world - languages with no genetic relationship to any modern language group - with the largest number of these surviving languages spoken

on the continent of South America. The language isolate that has baffled linguists the most is **Basque**, spoken in Northern Spain, of which linguists can find absolutely no common root or language family what so ever.

6. Language groups: There are ten major language groups in use around the world which are further divided into thousands of language families between them. The largest language group is the **Niger / Congo** language group - spoken in central Africa - with around 1,500 different languages.

English is derived from the **Germanic** language family - of which there are 53 different languages including **English, German, Dutch**, the **Scandinavian** languages and **Afrikaans** - which is a language family derived from the **Indo - European** group of languages, of which there are around 439 different languages including **Spanish, French, Russian, Hindi** and **Urdu**. The Indo - European language group is the group with the largest number of natural speakers, with around 3 billion natural speakers worldwide.

7. The World's Longest & Shortest Alphabets: The language with the world's largest alphabet is **Khmer**, the official language of Cambodia, with 74 letters. Khmer is an AustroAsiac language spoken by around 12 million people. The language with the world's smallest alphabet is **Rotokas**, an East Papuan language, with just 12 letters. Rotokas is spoken by around 4,000 people on the island of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

IX. The World's Religions:

1. Major Religions: There are twelve classic religions in the world. Below are listed the names of these twelve religions, followed by the name of the religion's prophet - denominations within the religion - the name of the religion's Holy Book or Scriptures - followed by the religion's type of house of worship.

(i) **BAHA'I.** - **Baha'u'llah** - No denominations - **BAB** - Temple.

(ii) **BUDDHISM.** - Gautama Buddha - Mahayana. Prajna Tantric. Theravada. Vajrayana. Zen – **SCRIPTURES OF BUDDHA** Temple

(iii) **CHRISTIANITY.** - Jesus Christ - Catholicism. Orthodoxy. Protestantism - **BIBLE** - Church / chapel.

(iv) **CONFUCIANISM.** - Confucius - No denominations - **SCRIPTURES OF CONFUCIUS** - Temple.

(v) **HINDUISM.** - No prophet. - Shavism. Shaktism. Smartism. Vaishnavism - **VEDAS** - Temple.

(vi) **ISLAM.** - Mohammed - Ibadi. Shi'a. Sufi. Sunni. Wahabi - **QUR'AN** - Mosque.

(vii) **JAINISM.** - 24 Tirthankaras. - Digambar. Svetambar. - **KALPASUTRA** - Temple.

(viii) **JUDAISM.** - Abraham - Hasidic. Haskalah. Sephardic. Orthodox - **TANAKH** - Synagogue.

(ix) **SHINTO.** - No prophet. - No denominations. **KOJIKI** - Shrine.

(x) **SIKIHISM.** - First Sikh Guru, Nanak Dev. - Namdhari. Udasi - **ADI GRANTH** - Gurudwara.

(xi) **TAOISM.** - No prophet. - No denominations. - **TAO TE CHING** - Temple.

(xii) **ZOROASTRIANISM.** - Zoroaster - No denominations. - **AVESTA** - Atash Behram.

2. State Religions : Twenty eight countries around the world have an official, state religion, that is a religion endorsed by the state, although most of them are tolerant of other religious groups within the country.

BUDDHISM - *THEREVEDA* - Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

BUDDHISM - *VAJRAYANA* - Bhutan.

CHRISTIAN - CATHOLICISM - Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco.

CHRISTIAN - ANGLICAN PROTESTANTISM - The Church of England.

CHRISTIAN - LUTHERAN PROTESTANTISM - The Church of Denmark, The Church of Iceland.

EASTERN ORTHODOXY - Greece, Finland.

ISLAM - SUNNI - Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei, Comoros, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Maldives, Mauritius, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

JUDAISM - Israel.

3. Theocratic Countries: Eleven countries around the world are theocracies, that is a country whose official government policies are governed by divine guidance, pursuant to the doctrine of a particular religion. In these countries, God is considered as the country's head of state.

BUDDHISM - MAHAYANA - Tibet.

CHRISTIAN - CATHOLOICISM - Vatican State.

ISLAM - IBADI - Oman

ISLAM - NON DENOMINATIONAL - Iraq.

ISLAM - SHI'A - Iran.

ISLAM - SUNNI - Afghanistan, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen.

4. Secular Countries: There are fifty three countries around the world which consider themselves secular, that is they do not have a state religion, although the country could well have a particular, predominant religion.

Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, China, East Timor, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kosovo, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Korea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam.

5. Non Religious Countries: Fifteen per cent of the world's population - 1.1 billion people - proclaim to be non religious. The world's top five countries which between them make up the highest number of people in the world who are non believers are -

CHINA - with 82% of it's population.

JAPAN - with 71 % of it's population.

VIETNAM - with 44% of it's population

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - with 59% of it's population.

GERMANY - with 62% of it's population.

The world's top five countries with the highest percentage of their population who are non believers are -

SWEDEN - with 88% of the population.

DENMARK - with 83% of the population.

CHINA - with 82% of the population.

ESTONIA - with 78% of it's population.

NORWAY - with 78% of it's population.

X. World Dimensions:

1. Surface Area: The world's **surface area** is 510,066,000 sq km.

Land area - 148,647,000 sq km.

Total water area. - 361,419,000 sq km.

Circumference at Poles - 39,992 km.

Circumference at Equator - 40,066 km.

Diameter at Poles - 12,710 km.

Diameter at Equator - 12,753 km.

Radius at Poles - 6,355 km.

Radius at Equator - 6,376 km.

2. Ocean areas:

Pacific Ocean - 165,384,000 sq km

Atlantic Ocean - 82,217,000 sq km

Indian Ocean - 73,481,000 sq km

Arctic Ocean - 14,056,000 sq km.

Antarctic / Southern Ocean - 20,377,000 sq kms.

3. Continent Areas:

Asia - 45,036,492 sq km.

Africa - 30,343,578 sq km.

North America - 25,680,331 sq km.

South America - 17,815,420 sq km.

Antarctica - 13,340,000 sq km.

Europe - 9,908,599 sq km.

Oceania - 8,504,241 sq km.

4. Continents by number of countries:

Africa - 54.

Europe - 43.

Asia - 49.

North America - 23.

Oceania - 13.

South America - 13.

5. World's Longest Coastlines:

In kms.

Canada - 202,080.

Indonesia - 54,716.

Russian Federation - 37,650.

Philippines - 36,289.

Japan - 29,751.

Australia - 25,760.

Norway - 25,148.

U.S.A - 19,924.

New Zealand - 15,134.

China - 14,500.

Greece - 13,676.

United Kingdom - 12,429.

6. World Extremes:

Lowest point: Challenger Deep at 10,911 metres below sea level situated on the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean.

Lowest point on land: Shores of the Dead Sea at 418 metres below sea level, situated on the Israel / Jordan border.

Highest point: Summit of Mount Everest at 8,848 metres above sea level, situated on the Nepal / Tibet border.

Most easterly and westerly points according to the International Date Line:

Most westerly, **Attu Island**, Alaska.

Most easterly, **Caroline Island**, Kiribati, Pacific Ocean.

Most northerly point:

North Pole, Arctic.

Most southerly point:

South Pole, Antarctica.

Remotest island:

Bouvet Island, situated 1,600 miles from it's nearest neighbour, Queen Maud Island, both of which are uninhabited and situated in the Southern Atlantic Ocean.

Remotest inhabited archipelago: Tristan da Cunha, part of the British Overseas Territory of St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, situated in the Atlantic Ocean 2,810 kms from it's nearest landmass on the coast of South Africa and 3,360 kms from the coast of South America.

XI. The world's largest eco - systems and terrains:

1. The world's top ten highest mountains:

- Mount Everest.- Asia.- 8,646 metres.
- K2. - Asia.- 8,611 metres.
- Kangchenjunga. - Asia. - 8,598 metres.
- Aconcagua. - South America. - 6,960 metres.
- Ojos del Salado. - South America. - 6,908 metres.
- Chimborazo. - South America. - 6,310 metres.
- Mount McKinley. - North America. - 6,194.
- Kilimanjaro. - Africa. - 5,895.
- Elbrus. - Asia. - 5,642.
- Kirinyaga. - Africa. - 5,199 metres.

2. The world's top ten largest deserts:

- Sahara. - Africa. - 3,320,000. sq km.
- Arabian. - Asia. - 900,00. sq km.
- Kalahari. - Africa. - 360,000.
- Great Victoria. - Australia. - 250,000. sq km.
- Syrian. - Asia. - 200,000.
- Chihuahuan. - South America. - 175,000. sq km.
- Great Sandy. - Australia. - 150,000.sq km.
- Soworan. - Central America. - 120,000. sq km.
- Thar. - Asia. - 77,000. sq km.
- Gibson. - Australia. - 60,000. sq km.

3. The world's top ten largest lakes:

- Caspian Sea- 371,000 sq km. Asia.
- Lake Superior- 83,270 sq km. North America.
- Lake Victoria- 68,800 sq km. Africa.
- Lake Huron- 60,700sq km. North America.
- Lake Michigan- 58,020. North America.
- Aral Sea- 33,640. sq km. Asia.
- Lake Tanganyika- 32,900 sqkm. Africa.
- Great Bear Lake- 31,790 sq km. North America.
- Lake Baikal- 30,500sq km. Asia.
- Great Slave Lake- 28,440 sq km. North America.

4. The world's top ten longest rivers:

- Nile. 6,695 km.- Africa.
- Amazon. 6,516 km.- South America.

- Yangste. 6,380 km.- Asia.
- Mississippi / Missouri. 6,020 km.-North America.
- Ob- Irtysh. 5,570 km. Asia.
- Huang He. 5,464 km. Asia.
- Congo. 4,667 km. -Africa.
- Mekong. 4,425 km.- Asia.
- Amur. 4,416 km. - Asia.
- Lena. 4,400 km.-Asia.

5. Waterfalls:

The world's tallest waterfall is the **Angel Falls** in Venezuela at 979 metres tall.

The world's widest waterfall is the **Victoria Falls** on the Zimbabwe / Zambia border at 1609.344 metres wide.

Find out how many types of waterfalls there are around the world

6. Mountains And Mountain Ranges: The longest mountain range on earth is the **Oceanic Ridge System**, situated on the sea floor of all of the world's five oceans, which in total measures 80.000 kilometres long, with it's longest, continuous ridge measuring over 65,000 kilometres long.

The world's longest mountain range is the **Andes** situated on the continent of South America which is 7,242 kilometres long.

The world's highest mountain range is the **Himalayas**, with it's highest peak on Mount Everest, at 8,646 metre high, situated in Nepal.

The world's largest volcano is **Mauna Lao** in Hawaii, at 4,169 metres above sea level, with that distance again also situated below sea level.

The world's tallest above ground volcano is **Ojos de Salada** in Chile, at 6,893 metres high.

7. The world's largest eco - systems:

Boreal / Coniferous Forest biome - The Taiga at 2,156,900 sq kms contains the combined Scandinavian, Canadian and Russian Taiga, situated along the Arctic Circle.

Bogland / Peat Bog - The Western Siberian lowlands of Russia contain 900,000 sq kms of peat bogs.

Cold Water Geyser - 64 metres high - Andernach, Germany.

Coral Reef - 2,900 reefs and 900 islands, stretching for 2,600 kms. Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia.

Desert - 3,320,000 sq km. The Sahara Desert, North Africa.

Heathland / Moorland / Grassland / Steppe - 40,000 hectares. The Daurian Steppe, Mongolia.

Hot Spring / Geothermal geyser - 90 metres high - The Steamboat Geyser, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, U.S.A.

Inter - tidal mudflats - 500 kms long and covering an area of 10,000 sq kms - The Wadden Sea, situated along the coast of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark.

Mangrove Forest - 6,000 sq kms. Sunderbans, Bangladesh.

Marine Park - 408,250 sq kms - Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Pacific Ocean.

Marshland - 150,000 sq kms. The Pantanel, Brazil.

National park - 972,000 sq kms. The North East Greenland National Park

Natural sinkhole - 80 kms by 120 kms - The Qattara Depression, Egypt.

Oasis / Wadi - 22,000 sq kms. River Nile delta, Egypt.

Polar Ice Cap - 1,700,000 sq kms x 3 m thick . Greenland.

Prairie / Savannah - 8,600 acres. Des Moines. Iowa. U.S.A.

Salt Flats - 10.582 sq kms. Salar De Uyuni, Bolivia.

Salt Marsh - 250,000 sq kms. Gulf of St Lawrence, Canada.

Sand Dunes - (highest) 1176 m above sea level. Cerro Blanco, Sechura Desert, Nazca, Peru.

Swampland - 53,000 sq km. Vasyugan Swamp, Siberia, Russia.

Tidal Bore - 9.4 m high and 321.8 kms long. Hangzhou Bay, China.

Tidal Flats / Wetlands - 1000 sq kms. Hiroshima Bay, Japan.

Tropical Rainforest / Jungle - 4,100,000 sq kms. The Amazon, South America.

Whirlpool / Maelstrom - 10 m x 5 m whirlpools created by 400 million tonnes of seawater at a speed of 40 km/h or 22 knots an hour - Saltstraumen, Bodo, Norway.

XII. Highest, Biggest, Longest, Largest, Deepest etc.

Airliner, Largest: Boeing 747

Animal, Tallest: Giraffe

Animal, Fastest: The Peregrine Falcon

Archipelago, Largest: Indonesia

Bird, Fastest: Swift

Bird, Largest: Ostrich

Bird, Smallest: Humming Bird

Bridge, Longest Railway: Huey P. Long Bridge (U.S.A.)

Building, Tallest in Asia: The Connaught Centre in Hong Kong (195 metres tall; has 46 floors)

Building, Highest in the world: Sears Tower in Chicago (440-metre high. It is a 110-storey tower which is nearly 60 metres taller than the Empire State building in New York)

Canal, Longest, small ship: Beloye (White Sea) Baltic Canal (CIS) 226 km long

Canal, Longest, big ship: Suez Canal (U.A.R.) (161 km)

Canalised System, Longest: Volga-Baltic Canal (2960 km)

Capital, Highest: Lhasa (Before domination of Tibet by China) 3684 metres above sea-level

City, Highest: Wenchuan (China) 5,100 metres above sea-level La Paz (capital of Bolivia) stands at an altitude of 3632 metres above sea-level

City, Largest in population: Shanghai followed by:

Conference Hall, World's Highest: At Nathu-La Pass on Indo-China border in Sikkim

Continent, Largest: Asia

Continent, Smallest: Australia

Coral Formation, Largest: The Great Barrier Reef (North-east coast of Australia)

Country, Largest in Population: China followed by India

Country, Largest (in area): Russia

Country (with largest electorate): India.

Creature, Largest: Blue Whale is the largest creature in the world today. It can grow up to a weight of 150 tonnes.

Dam, Highest: The Grande (Switzerland)

Day, Longest: June 21 (in Northern Hemisphere)

Day, Shortest: Dec 22 (in Northern Hemisphere)

Delta, Largest: The world's largest delta is that created by the Ganges and Brahmaputra in Bangladesh and West Bengal, India.

Desert, Largest (in the world): Sahara (Africa)

Desert, Largest (in Asia): Gobi (Mongolia)

Diamond, Largest: The Cullinan (over 1½ lb.)

Dome, Largest: "Astrodome" in Houston, Texas (U.S.A.); outside dia:

Employer, Largest of India: Indian Railways

Epic, Longest: Mahabharata

Forest, Largest: Coniferous forest of Northern Russia

Gulf, Largest: Gulf of Mexico

Highest Motorable Road: Khardungla-Leh-Manali sector 5682 Mt

Highest Non-military Airport: Leh 3256 Mt

Island, Largest: Greenland

Islands, Largest (Group of): Malaya Archipelago

Lake, Largest Artificial: Lake Mead (Boulder Dam)

Lake, Deepest: Baikal (Siberia); average depth 701 metres

Lake, Highest: Titicaca (Bolivia) 3854 metres above sea level

Lake, Largest Fresh Water: Superior (50,200 sq km)

Lake, Largest Salt Water: Caspian Sea (26 metres below sea-level)

Largest Crater of India: The Lonar in Vidharba region of Maharashtra

Largest Inland Waterway of India: Kerala

Largest Barrage of India: Farakka 224 mt

Largest Stadium of India: Salt Lake Stadium Kolkata, 1,20,00 capacity

Largest Tribe of India: Gond

Largest Library of India: National Library Kolkata

Largest Exhibition Ground of India: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi 150 Acres

Largest Ocean Island of India: Middle Andaman

Largest River Basin of India: Ganga Basin

Largest Estuary: at the mouth of the river Hooghly

Library, Largest: United States Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (more than 59,000,000 items).

Longest Ropeway in India: connecting Joshimath in Uttranchal 4.15 km long

Longest Train in India: Prayag Express running between Delhi and Allahabad (24 bogies)

Longest Road Tunnel in India: Chiplin—Koya Nagar, Maharashtra 1 km long

Longest National Highway of India: NH-7, 2369 km

Longest Cave of India: Krem um Kwan Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya

Mountain Peak, Highest in the world: Everest (Nepal)

Mountain Peak, Highest in India: Godwin Austen (8,611 m)

Mountain Peak, Highest in Africa: Kilimanjaro (5,888 m)

Mountain Peak, Highest in Europe: Elbruz (5,633 m)

Mountain Range, Highest: Himalayas

Mountain Range, Longest: Andes (S. America), 8,800 km in length

Museum, Largest: American Museum of Natural History, New York city. It comprises 19 inter-connected buildings with 23 acres of floor space.

Nuclear Reactor, Biggest: France

Ocean, Deepest and Biggest: The Pacific

Palace, Biggest: Vatican

Park, Largest: Wood Buffalo National Park in Alberta Canada. Area :

Peninsula, Largest: Arabia

Pilot, Youngest of India: Capt Nivedita Bhasin, at age 26 in 1990 became youngest pilot to command a jet aircraft

Place, Coldest: Verkhoyansk (Russia); Temperature 85° below zero

Place, Driest: Death Valley (California); rainfall 1.5 inch

Place, Hottest: Azizia (Libya, Africa 58°C (136°F)

Place, Rainiest: Cheerapunji (Meghalaya, India)

Planet, Biggest: Jupiter

Planet, Brightest: Venus

Planet, Farthest (from the sun): Pluto

Planet, Nearest (to the sun): Mercury

Planet, Smallest: Mercury

Planetarium, biggest: Tsukuba, Japan

Plateau, Highest: Pamir (Tibet)

Platform, Longest: Kharagpur platform in West Bengal (India)

Railway, Longest: Trans-Siberian Railway (9,600 km long)

Railway Station, Largest: Grand Central Terminal, New York City, covers 48 acres. On an average more than 550 trains and 180,000 people per day use it.

River, Longest: Nile (6,679 km)

Sea-bird, Largest: Albatross

Sea, Largest: South China Sea

Star, Brightest: Sirius (also called Dog Star)

Statue, Tallest : "Motherland" an enormous female figure on Mamayev Hill, outside Volgograd (Russia).

Swimming Course, Longest recognised: English Channel

Tallest TV Tower of India: Rameshwaram, T.N. 1000 feet

Telescope, Largest Radio: The world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope, Y-shaped with each arm 21 km long with 27 mobile antennae on rails, built in New Mexico (USA).

Telescope, Largest Solar: Kit Peak National Observatory, Arizona USA

Telescope, Largest Reflector: Mount Semirodriki, in the Caucasus (CIS)

Telescope, Largest Refractor: Yerkes Observatory, Wisconsin (USA)

Tunnel, Longest Railway: Secken Tunnel (Japan)

Tunnel, Longest Road: St Gothard tunnel in Switzerland (16.32 km)

Village, Highest: Andean (Chile) 5334 metres above sea-level

Volcano, Highest: Cotopaxi (Andes, Ecuador)

Volcano, Largest: Mauna Lea (Hawaii); crater

Wall, Longest: Great Wall of China (2400 km)

Water Falls, Greatest in the world: Victoria Falls on river Zambesi (Zambia) 1700 metres wide

Waterfall, Highest: Angel (Venezuela)

Water, Lowest body of: Dead Sea

XIII. Tribes and Races:

Afridis: A war-like race of hill men on the north-west frontier of Pakistan (tribal area of Waziristan).

Bedouins: Nomadic tribe of Arabia, spread over the whole of Northern Africa and Western Asia.

Bhils: a primitive Dravidian race inhabiting Central India.

Boer: a name applied to South Africans of Dutch or Huguenot descent, especially to early settlers of Transvaal and the Orange Free State and their descendants.

Bushmen: They live in the Kalahari desert. They are probably the descendants of the earliest inhabitants of Africa. They rank among the most uncivilized and backward peoples in the world. Their food consists almost entirely of meat, often raw or decomposed, and in times of scarcity they will eat insects, snakes etc.

Cossacks: Peasants of the south-eastern border land of Poland, or Ukraina are known as Cossacks. Many of them belong to Turkic people while many others are of a mix descent.

Eskimos: Race living in the Arctic regions: Greenland, Alaska, Labradors and the extreme north-east corner of Siberia.

Karbis: are natives of Assam.

Khasis: are a tribe inhabiting the Khasi and Jaintia hills in the north-eastern hilly tracts in Meghalaya State of India. The Khasis have their own distinctive language and culture.

Kikuyu: are a race of Bantu negroes who live in the north of Mount Kenya. They combine agriculture with pastoralism.

Kirghiz: of Central Asia are an example of people adopted to a grassland environment. They are pastoral nomads who move from pasture to pasture with the flocks and herds of horses, camels, oxen, sheep and goats. Meat forms only a small portion of their food. The Kirghiz are fearless horsemen, and even their children are expert riders.

Kiwis: inhabit New Zealand.

Lambadies: are concentrated in Karnataka State of India.

Lepchas: are aborigines of Sikkim and Darjeeling. They are one of the Scheduled Tribes of the Hills, recognised by the Government of India.

Magyars: the Hungarian race who came to Eastern Europe from south-west Asia and settled in Hungary in the 10th century.

Mahsud: Hill-tribe living in north-west of Pakistan.

Maoris: are the original inhabitants of New Zealand. The Maoris are tall, muscular, handsome people, with brown skin and black hair. They are greatly skilled in stone and wood-carving.

Masai: of the east African Plateau are the example of pastoral people. They are tall, strong, warlike race, partly negroid in type. They treat their cattle with great respect and affection and do not kill them for food or for sale as meat.

Moplas: A Muslim tribe of Malabar (Kerala, India).

Mayas: A large group of American Indians living in the highlands of Guatemala.

Munda: They are mostly located in the State of Madhya Pradesh in India.

Nagas: Hill tribe of Nagaland (India).

Negritos: are the ancient tribes of Andamans.

Negro: A race of men distinguished by dark skin, fuzzy hair, broad and protruding lips, living in south-west and Central Africa.

Red Indians: Race living in U.S.A. between the rocky Mountains and the Missouri River. They are original inhabitants of America.

Santhals: Aboriginal natives of Orissa and Chhotanagpur.

Semangs: are tribal people living in Malaysia.

Todas: They are aboriginal tribe of the Nilgiris (India).

Zulus: are a race of negroid people in Natal (South Africa), having close ethnic, linguistic and cultural ties with the Swazis and the Bantus.

XIV. First in the World:

1.	Chairman of Peoples Republic of China	Mao-Tse-Tung
2.	President of the Chinese Republic	Dr. Sun Yat Sen
3.	President of U.S.A	George Washington
4.	Chinese Traveller to India	Fahein
5.	Foreign Invader to India	Alexander the Great
6.	Person to reach South Pole	Amundsen
7.	Person to reach North Pole	Robert Pearey
8.	Person in Space	Yuri Gagarin
9.	Person on Moon	Neil Armstrong
10.	Lady to climb Mount Everest	Junko Taibei
11.	European to visit China	Marco Polo
12.	Place where atom bomb was dropped	Hiroshima
13.	Man to walk in Space	Alexei Leonov
14.	Woman cosmonaut in Space	Valentina Tereshkova
15.	Woman Prime Minister of a country	Mrs. Srimavo Bhandarnaike
16.	Woman President of a country	Maria Estela Peron
17.	Woman to Command a Space Mission	Colonel Eileen Collins (U.S.A.)
18.	The first residents of International Space station	Bill Shepherd (USA), Yuri Gidzanko and Sergei Krikalev (Russia)
19.	The first blind man to scale Mt. Everest	Erik Weihenmayer (USA, May 25, 2001)
20.	The first Muslim woman to become the Secretary General of Amnesty International	Irine Zubeida Khan
21.	The first space astronaut to go into space seven times till date	Jerry Ross (U.S.A.)
22.	The first South African to become the second space tourist	Mark Shuttleworth
23.	The first woman Prime Minister of South Korea	Ms. Chang Sang
24.	The first youngest grandmaster of the world in chess	Sergey Karjakin (Ukraine)

25.	The first adventurer flying successfully across the English Channel without aircraft	Felix Baumgartner (July 2003)
26.	China's first man in space	Yang Liwei
27.	The first Muslim woman to receive Nobel Prize	Shirin Ebadi (Nobel Peace Prize 2003)
28.	The woman with the highest individual Test score making a new world record	Kiran Baloch (Pakistani cricketer, scoring 242 runs playing women's cricket test against West Indies in Karachi in March, 2004)
29.	The first woman of the world to climb Mt. Everest four times	Lakpa Sherpa (Nepali)
30.	The first woman to cross seven important seas of the world by swimming	Bula Chaudhury (India)
31.	The first aircraft pilot to round the entire world non-stop by his 2 engine aircraft in 67 hours	Steve Fossett (March 2005)
32.	The first woman to be appointed as a Governor of a province in Afghanistan	Habiba Sorabhi
33.	The first woman of the world to swim across five continents	Bula Chaudhury (India) (April 2005)
34.	The first woman athlete to touch 5.0 meter mark in pole vault	Ms. Yelena Isinbayeva (Russian, July 2005)
35.	The first Hindu Chief Justice of Pakistani Supreme Court	Justice Rana Bhagwan Das Took over on Sept. 2, 2005 as Acting Chief Justice
36.	The first duly elected woman President of an African country	Allen Johnson Sirleaf (elected President of Liberia in Nov. 2005)
37.	The first woman Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan	Shanshad Akhtar (Appointed in Dec. 2005)
38.	The first woman Chancellor of Germany	Angela Merkel (Took over in Nov. 2005)
39.	The first woman President of Chile	Dr. Michelle Bachelet
40.	The first woman Prime Minister of Jamaica	Portia Simpson Miller (Feb. 2006)
41.	The first woman foreign Secretary of England	Margaret Backett (May 2006)
42.	The first double amputee to scale Mt. Everest	Mark Inglis (May 15, 2006)

XV. Other Information:

1. Various Geographical Winds:

Winds	Region/Country	Nature
Foehn	Alps/Europe (Germany)	Dry/Warm
Chinook	Rockies/USA & Canada	Dry/Warm (snow eater)
Mistral	Alps/France to Mediterranean	Cord/Dry sea (Rhine valley)
Sirocco	N. Africa/Sicily/Italy	Hot/Dry
Khamsin	Egypt/Africa	Hot/Dry
Harmattan	West Africa/Ghana, Nigria	Hot/Dry
North Westerly	Bengal/Assam/India	Hot/moist
Berg	South Africa	Cold/Dry
Pampero	Argentina	Cold/Dry
Zonda	Chile/Peru/Brazil	Warm/Dry
Brickfilder	Australia	Hot/Dry
Buran	Siberia/Russia	Cold/Dry
flora	Italy/Yugoslavia	Cold/Dry
Southerly	Australia	Cold/Dry
Burster		
Samun	Persia/Iran	Hot/Dry
Nevados	Equador	Hot/Dry
North Westerly	New Zealand (South Island)	Hot/Dry
Leveehe	Algeria/Morocco	Hot/Dry

2. Crops and Major producing countries:

Crops	Major Producing country
Rice	China, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia
Wheat	USA, Russia, Ukraine, Canada, Argentina, Australia
Coarse	Russia, Brazil,
Grains	Central Africa
Sugarcane	Cuba, India & Nigeria
Cotton	USA, Russia, Egypt, India, China
Tea	India, China & Sri Lanka
Coffee	Brazil, Columbia, Nigeria
Sugarbeet	Russia
Barley	Russia
Corn	USA, Russia

3. Major Industries:

Name of the Industry	Major Producing Country
Iron & Steel	USA, Germany, Russia
Cotton textile	USA, Japan, Russia
Rubber	Malaysia, Indonesia & Thailand
Synthetic Rubber	USA, Germany, Japan
Woolen textile	Australia, Russia
Silk textile	China, Japan
Microelectronic	Japan, USA
Ship Manufacturing	USA, Japan
Automobile	USA, Japan
Pulp & Paper	Canada & USA
Newsprint Paper	USA & Canada
Petroleum Products	USA, Germany & Japan

4. Major industrial centres and related industry:

Acron	Synthetic Rubber
New York	Ship building, Cotton textiles
Huston:	Ship building, Cotton textiles
Pittsburg	Iron & Steel
Magnitogorsk	Iron & Steel
Tokyo	Ship building & Cotton textile
Moscow	Cotton textile & heavy industry
Datroit	Automobiles
Los Angeles	Film Industry
Vancouver	Oil refining & Ship building
Birmingham	Iron & Steel
Manchester	Cotton textile
Johannesburg	Gold mining
Ruhr valley	Iron & Steel
Osaka	Cotton & textile
Nagasaki	Ship building
Shanghai	Cotton textile
Cairo	Cotton textile
Ahmadabad	Cotton textile
Ivanovo (Russia)	Cotton textile
Magnitogorsk	Heavy industries
Auckland (N2)	Dairy Products

5. Geographical Names Old & New:

Old	New
Abyssinia	Ethiopia
Burma	Myanmar
British Honduras	Belize
Cango	Zaire
Constantinople	Istanbul
Dutch East Indies	Indonesia
Dutch Guyana	Surinam
Formosa	Taiwan
Gold Coast	Ghana
Holland	Netherland
Madagaskar	Malagasy
Mesopotamia	Iraq
N. Rhodesia	Zambia
S. Rhodesia	Zimbabwe
Sandwich Island	Hawaiian Island
Siam	Thailand
S.W. Africa	Namibia
Tanganyika	Tanzania

6. Important Days:

January 9	NRI Day
January 10	World Laughter Day
January 12	National Youth Day
January 15	Army Day
January 26	India's Republic Day, International Customs Day
January 30	Martyrs' Day; World Leprosy Eradication Day
2nd Sunday of February	World Marriage Day
February 24	Central Excise Day
February 28	National Science Day
Second Monday March	Commonwealth Day
March 8	International Women's Day; Intl. literacy Day
March 15	World Disabled Day; World Consumer Rights Day
March 18	Ordnance Factories Day (India)
March 21	World Forestry Day; International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 22	World Day for Water
March 23	World Meteorological Day
March 24	World TB Day
April 5	International Day for Mine Awareness; National Maritime Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 17	World Haemophilia Day
April 18	World Heritage Day
April 21	Secretaries' Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day
May 1	Workers' Day (International Labour Day)
May 3	Press Freedom Day; World Asthma Day
May 2nd Sunday	Mother's Day
May 4	Coal Miners' Day
May 8	World Red Cross Day
May 9	World Thalassaemia Day
May 11	National Technology Day
May 12	World Hypertension Day; International Nurses Day
May 15	International Day of the Family
May 17	World Telecommunication Day
May 24	Commonwealth Day
May 31	Anti-tobacco Day
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
June 5	World Environment Day
June 3rd Sunday	Father's Day
June 14	World Blood Donor Day
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
July 1	Doctor's Day
July 6	World Zoonoses Day
July 11	World Population Day
August 3	International Friendship Day
August 6	Hiroshima Day
August 8	World Senior Citizen's Day
August 9	Quit India Day, Nagasaki Day
August 15	Indian Independence Day
August 18	Int'l. Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
August 19	Photography Day

August 29	National Sports Day
September 2	Coconut Day
September 5	Teachers' Day; Sanskrit Day
September 8	World Literacy Day (UNESCO)
September 15	Engineers' Day
September 16	World Ozone Day
September 21	Alzheimer's Day; Day for Peace & Non-violence (UN)
September 22	Rose Day (Welfare of cancer patients)
September 26	Day of the Deaf
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 1	International Day for the Elderly
October 2	Gandhi Jayanthi
October 3	World Habitat Day
October 4	World Animal Welfare Day
October 8	Indian Air Force Day
October 9	World Post Office Day
October 10	National Post Day
October 2nd Thursday	World Sight Day
October 13	UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
October 14	World Standards Day
October 15	World White Cane Day (guiding the blind)
October 16	World Food Day
October 24	UN Day; World Development Information Day
October 30	World Thrift Day
November 9	Legal Services Day
November 14	Children's Day; Diabetes Day
November 17	National Epilepsy Day
November 20	Africa Industrialisation Day
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 3	World Day of the Handicapped
December 4	Indian Navy Day
December 7	Indian Armed Forces Flag Day
December 10	Human Rights Day; Intl. Children's Day of Broadcasting
December 18	Minorities Rights Day (India)
December 23	Kisan Divas (Farmer's Day) (India)

7. Major Countries- Capitals- Rivers

Below is a list of capital cities, found in country alphabetical order, with their respective areas of freshwater supply, be it by means of a river, lake, oasis or canal system.

The river which flows through the most capital cities in the world is Europe's River Danube, which runs through the four capital cities of :-

Belgrade - capital of Serbia

Bratislava - capital of Slovakia

Budapest - capital of Hungary

Vienna - capital of Austria.

A

Afghanistan. - Kabul. - River Kabul.

Albania. - Tirana. - The Rivers Ishem, Tirane and Lane, although the River Lane is no more than a brook today.

Andorra - Andorra La Vella - Gran Valira.

Argentina. - Buenos Aries. - River Plate.

Armenia - Yerevan - Hrazdan River.

Australia. - Canberra. - River Molonglo.

Austria. - Vienna. - River Danube.

Autonomous Region of Tibet - Lhasa - Kyi River.

B

Barbados - Bridgetown - River Careenage .

Bangladesh. - Dhaka. - River Buriganga.

Belize - Belmopan - Belize River.

Belgium. - Brussels. - River Zenne.

Bhutan. - Thimpu. - River Wong Chhu.

Bolivia. - La Paz. - River Choqueapu.

Bosnia and Herzogovenia - Sarajevo - River Miljacka.

Botswana - Gaborone - Notowahe River.

Brunei - Bandar Seri Begawan - Brunei River.

Bulgaria. - Sofia. - The Rivers Vladaiska and Perlovska.

Burundi - Bujumbura - Lake Tanganyika.

C

Cambodia. - Phnom. Penh. - Rivers Bassac and Mekong and Lake Tonle Sap.

Canada. - Ottawa. - River Ottawa.

Chad. - N'djamena. - River Chari.

China. - Beijing. - Yellow River.

Chile - Santiago. - River Mapocho

Colombia. - Bogota. - River Bogota.

Congo. - Brazzaville. - River Congo.

Croatia - Zagreb - River Sava.

Cuba - Havana - River Almendares.

Cyprus. - Nicosia. - River Pedieos.

Czech Republic. - Prague. - River Vltava.

D

Democratic Republic of Congo. - Kinshasa. - River Congo.

Dominica. - Roseau. - River Roseau.

Dominican Republic. - Santa Domingo. - River Ozama.

E

Ethiopia. - Addis Ababa. - River Chankelia.

Ecuador. - Quito. - River Guayllabamba.

England - London - River Thames.

Egypt. - Cairo. - River Nile.

Estonia. - Tallinn. - River Pirita.

F

Finland. - Helsinki. - River Vantaa.

France. - Paris. - River Seine.

French Guyana. - Cayenne. - River Cayenne.

G

Gabon. - Libreville. - River Komo.

Gambia. - Banjul. - River Gambia.

Georgia - Tblisi - River Kura.

Germany. - Berlin. - River Spree. and River Havel.

Ghana. - Accra. - River Odaw.

Greece. - Athens. - River Kifissos.

Greenland. - Nuuk. - Nuup Kangerlua Fjord.

Guinea Bissau - Bissau - River Geba.

Guyana - Georgetown - River Demerara.

H

Honduras. - Tegucigalpa. - River Choluteca.

Hungary. - Budapest. - River Danube.

I

Iceland. - Reykjavik. - River Ellioaa.

India. - Delhi. - River Yamuna.

Indonesia. - Jakarta. - River Ciliwung.

Iran. - Tehran. - River Hableh Rood.

Iraq. - Baghdad. - River Tigris.

Isle of Man - Douglas - Built upon the confluence of the Rivers Dhoo and Glass.

Italy. - Rome. - River Tiber.

J

Japan. - Tokyo. - River Sumida.

K

Kazakstan. - Astana. - River Ishim.

Kenya. - Nairobi. - River Nairobi.

Kyrgyzstan. - Bishtek. - River Chu.

L

Laos. - Vientiane. - River Mekong.

Latvia. - Riga. - River Daugava.

Leichtenstein - Vaduz - River Rhine.

Lesotho. - Maseru. - River Mohokare.

Liberia - Monrovia - Built upon the confluence of the Rivers Mesurado and Saint Paul.

Libya. - Tripoli. - River Abu Ali.

Lithuania - Vilnius - Built upon the confluence of the Rivers Neris and Vilnia.

Luxembourg - Luxembourg City - Built upon the confluence of the Rivers Alzette and Pretusse.

M

Macedonia. - Skopje. - River Vardar.

Madagascar. - Antanarivo. - River Ikoro.

Malawi - Lilongwe - River Lilongwe.

Malaysia. - Kuala Lumpur. - River Klamp.

Mali - Bamako - River Niger.

Malta - Valletta - The city grew up around it's Grand Harbour which is fed by the Marsa Creek.

Mauritius. - Port Louis. - Black River.

Mexico. - Mexico City. - River Coatzacoalcos.

Mongolia. - Ulan Bator. - River Tuul.

Moldova - Chisinau - River Bic.

Morocco. - Rabat. - River Bou Regreg.

Myanmar. - Mandalay. - Irriwady River.

N

Nepal. - Kathmandu. - River Bagmati.
Netherlands. - Amsterdam. - River Amstel.
New Zealand. - Wellington. - River Hutt.
Nicaragua. - Managua. - River San Juan.
Niger. - Niamey. - River Niger.
North Korea. - Pyongyang. - River Taedong.
Northern Ireland - Belfast - River Lagan.
Norway. - Oslo. - River Akerselva.

P

Panama. - Panama City. - River Caloosahatchee.
Papua New Guinea. - Port Moresby. - Brown River.
Paraguay. - Asuncion. - River Paraguay.
Peru. - Lima. - River Rimac.
Philippines - Manilla - Pasig River.
Poland. - Warsaw. - River Vistula.
Portugal. - Lisbon. - River Tejo.

R

Republic of Ireland - Dublin - River Liffey.
Republic of South Sudan - Juba - River White Nile.
Russian Federation. - Moscow. - River Moskva.
Rwanda. - Kigali. - River Ruganwa.

S

Saudi Arabia. - Riyadh. - Originally built beside the Riyadh Wadi - Orchard Oasis - this body of water has since dried up.
Serbia. - Belgrade. - River Danube.
Scotland - Edinburgh - Firth of Forth.
Sierra Leone. - Freetown. - Freetown River.
Slovakia. - Bratislava. - River Danube.
Slovenia - Ljubljana - River Ljubljanica.
Spain. - Madrid. - River Manzanares.
South Korea. - Seoul. - Han River.
Swaziland - Mbabane - Mbabane River
Sweden. - Stockholm. - River Norrstrom.
Switzerland. - Bern. - River Aare.
Sudan. - Khartoum. - River Nile.
Suriname - Paramaribo - Suriname River
Syria. - Damascus. - River Barada.

T

Taiwan. - Taipei. - River Danshui and River Xindian.

Tajikstan. - Dushanbe. - River Varzob.

Thailand. - Bangkok. - River Chao Phraya.

Tunisia. - Tunis. - Lake of Tunis.

Turkey. - Ankara. - River Ankara.

U

Uganda. - Kampala. - Lake Victoria.

Ukraine. - Kiev. - River Dnieper.

Uruguay. - Montivideo. - River Plate.

United Arab Emirates - Abu Dhabi - Al Ain Oasis.

United Kingdom. - London. - River Thames

United States. - Washington D.C. - River Patomac

Uzbekistan - Tashkent - River Chirchik.

V

Venezuela. - Caracas, - River Guaire.

Vietman.- Hanoi. - Red River.

W

Wales - Cardiff - Rivers Taff and Ely.

Z

Zambia. - Lusaka. - River Chongwe.

Zimbabwe. - Harare. - River Limpopo and River Zambesi.

B. INDIA

I. National Particulars:

1. The State Emblem: The state emblem is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. In the original, there are four lions, standing back to back, mounted on an abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening wheels over a bell-shaped lotus. Carved out of a single block of polished sandstone, the capital is crowned by the Wheel of the Law (Dharma Chakra). In the State emblem, adopted by the Government of India on 26 January 1950. The wheel appears in relief in the centre of the abacus with a bull on right and a horse on left and the outlines of other wheels on extreme right and left. The words Satyameva Jayate from

Mundaka Upanishad, meaning 'Truth Alone Triumphs', are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script.

2. National Song: The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom. It has an equal status with Jana-gana-mana. The first political occasion when it was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. The following is the text of its first stanza :

Vande Mataram!
Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja shitalam,
Shasyashyamalam, Mataram!
Shubhrajyothsna pulakitayaminim,
Phullakusumita drumadala shobhinim,
Suhasinim sumadhura bhashinim,
Sukhadam varadam, Mataram!

3. National Flower: Lotus, (Nelumbo Lucifera) is the national flower of India. It is a sacred flower and occupies a unique position in the art and mythology in ancient India and has been an auspicious symbol of Indian culture since time immemorial.

4. National Flag: The National flag is a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (kesari) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. The ratio of width of the flag to its length is two to three. In the centre of the white band is a navy blue wheel which represents the charkha. Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Its diameter approximates to the width of the white band and it has 24 spokes. The use and display of national flag are regulated by the Indian Flag Code: (i) The dipping of the Flag to any person or thing is prohibited. (ii) No other Flag or Emblem is to be placed above or to the right of the National Flag. If hung in a line, all other flags are to be placed on the left of the National Flag. When flown or raised with other flags, the National Flag must be the highest. (iii) The flag is not to be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free; when carried in a procession it is to be borne high on the right shoulder of the standard bearer and carried in front of the procession. (iv) The saffron stripe should always be at the top when the Flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally.

5. National Calendar: The national calendar is based on the Saka Era with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from 22 March 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for the following official purposes: (i) Gazette of India, (ii) news broadcast by All India Radio, (iii) calendars issued by the Government of India and (iv) Government communications addressed to the members of the public.

Months of the National Calendar

(1) Chaitra, (2) Vaishakha, (3) Jaishtha, (4) Ashadha, (5) Shraavan, (6) Bhadra, (7) Ashvina, (8) Kartika, (9) Margashirsha, (10) Pausha, (11) Magha, (12) Phalguna.

Dates of the national calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian calendar :

1 Chaitra falling on 22 March normally and on 21 March in leap year.

6. National Bird: The Indian peacock, *Pavo cristatus* (Linnaeus), the national bird of India, is a colourful, swan-sized bird, with a fan-shaped crest of feathers, a white patch under the eye and a long, slender neck. The male of the species is more colourful than the female, with a glistening blue breast and neck and a spectacular bronze-green train of around 200 elongated feathers. The female is brownish, slightly smaller than the male, and lacks the train.

7. National Anthem: The song Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the national anthem of India on 24 January 1950. It was first sung on 27 December 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. The complete song consists of five stanzas. The first stanza contains the full version of the National Anthem :

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka, jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
Punjab-Sindh-Gujarat-Maratha
Dravida-Utkala-Banga
Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga
Uchchala-Jaladhi-taranga.
Tava shubha name jage,
Tava shubha asisa mage,
Gahe tava jaya gatha,
Jana-gana-mangala-dayaka jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he,
Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he!

Playing time of the full version of the national anthem is approximately 52 seconds. A short version consisting of first and last lines of the stanza (playing time approximately 20 seconds) is also played on certain occasions.

8. National Animal: The magnificent tiger, *Panthera tigris* (Linnaeus), is a striped animal. It has a thick yellow coat of fur with dark stripes. The combination of grace, strength, agility and enormous power has earned the tiger its pride of place as the national animal of India. To check the dwindling population of tigers in India 'Project Tiger' was launched in April 1973. So far, 27 tiger reserves have been established in the country under this project, covering an area of 37,761 sq km. To check the dwindling population of tigers in India 'Project Tiger' was launched in April 1973.

II. **Flora & Fauna:**

1. Flora: India has a rich and varied vegetation, which only a few countries of comparable size possess. Following are eight distinctive floristic regions:

The Western Himalayan region: Extends from Kashmir to Kumaon. Its temperate zone is rich in forests of chir, pine, other conifers and broad-leaved temperate trees. Higher up, forests of deodar, blue pine, spruce and silver fir occur. The alpine zone extends from the upper limit of the temperate zone of about 4,750 metres or even higher. The characteristic trees of this zone are high-level silver fir silver birch and junipers.

The eastern Himalayan region: Extends from Sikkim eastwards and embraces Darjiling, Kurseong and the adjacent tract. The temperate zone has forests of oaks, laurels, maples, rhododendrons, alder and birch. Many conifers, junipers and dwarf willows also occur here. The Assam region comprises the Brahmaputra and the Surma valleys with evergreen forests, occasional thick clumps of bamboos and tall grasses.

The Indus plain region: Comprises the plains of Punjab, western Rajasthan and northern Gujarat. It is dry and hot and supports natural vegetation. The Ganga plain region covers the area which is alluvial plain and is under cultivation for wheat, sugarcane and rice. Only small areas support forests of widely differing types.

The Deccan region: Comprises the entire table land of the Indian Peninsula and supports vegetation of various kinds from scrub jungles to mixed deciduous forests. The Malabar region covers the excessively humid belt of mountain country parallel to the west coast of the Peninsula. Besides being rich in forest vegetation, this region produces important commercial crops, such as coconut, betelnut, pepper, coffee and tea, rubber and cashewnut.

The Andaman region: Abounds in evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests. The Himalayan region extending from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Meghalaya and Nagaland and the Deccan Peninsula is rich in endemic flora, with a large number of plants which are not found elsewhere. India is in the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity. From about 70 per cent geographical area surveyed so far, 49,000 species of plants have been described by the Botanical Survey of India.

2. Fauna: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), with its headquarters in Calcutta and 16 regional stations located in different parts of the country, is responsible for surveying the faunal resource of our country. Possessing a tremendous diversity of climate and physical conditions, India has great variety of fauna numbering 81,251 species. Of these, insects constitute about 60,000, molluscs a little over 5,000, mammals 372, birds 1,228, reptiles 446, amphibians 204, and fishes 2,546.

More than 77 species of mammals, 72 species of birds, 17 species of reptiles, three species of amphibians, two species of fish and a large number of butterflies, moth and beetles are considered vulnerable and endangered. There are presently 94 national parks and 501 wildlife sanctuaries covering about 15.67 million hectares area which is nearly 4.5 per cent of the total geographical area of the country.

III. Art & Culture:

1. Dances of India: Dance in India, is rooted in age-old tradition. This vast sub-continent has given birth to varied forms of dancing, each shaped by the influences of a particular period and environment. These pristine forms have been preserved through the centuries, to become a part of our present culture, a living heritage which is both our pride and delight.

Nurtured in temples, princely courts or villages, dance has moved into the auditorium of today, bringing pleasure to many more people, in far-flung regions. It is now possible to appreciate the lyrical grace of the Manipuri dance of North-Eastern India in, say, Gujarat. This dance-form arising out of Krishna-bhakti, is

sinuous in its movements and romantic in its concept, celebrating a divine theme which is meaningful to people all over the country. Similarly, the sophistry of Kathak, which flowered at the courts of the Mughal princes with its accelerated tempo, intricate foot-movements, and subtle facial expressions, evokes a resplendent past common to us all.

The abundant largesse of dance in South India, from the Bharatnatyam of Tamil Nadu, to the Kathakali dance-drama of Kerala, to the Kuchipudi of Andhra, has become part of the melting-pot of culture enriching the life of any Indian today. For, to witness the strength and vigour of Kathakali as it enacts episodes from the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, is an education in itself. The extremely stylised gestures, the elaborate make-up, the masks and the splendid costumes of these all-male dancers, recreates an incomparable sense of pageantry. Bharatanatyam, the temple-maiden's dance of devotion, has a classic quality which is as daunting as it is beautiful. The rigorous precision of foot and hand movements, the eloquent range of expression depicted through eyes and mouth, and the total linear consonance of body is exacting and exciting in its perfection.

Bharata's 'Natya Sastra' is the Bible of Indian aestheticians. It says that the Creator (Brahma) created dance to give joy in life to the gods who found their cosmic functions to be heavy and dreary. 'Bharatarmada' and 'Abhinaya Darpana' are other important classical works on the Indian art of dance. Kalidasa's drama Malavikagnimitra, Vishnu Dharmothrara and Agni Purana throws much light on the art. Other important Sanskrit works are Dhananjaya's Dasa Roopaka, Sargadava's Sangita Ratnakara, Thulajaji's Sangita Saramitra, Bala Ramavarma's Bala Bharata, Haripala Deva's Sangita Sudhakara, Veda Suri's Sangita Makaranda, Rasamanjari etc. Tamil works on dance are Bharata Senapatheeyam, Bharata Siddhanta, Bharata Sangraha and Mahabharata Choodamani. In the famous Tamil epic Silappadikaram, there is a reference to eleven varieties of dance (alliyam, kudai, kudam etc). It refers to 24 kinds of abhinayam.

2. Architecture:

Buddhist and Jaina architecture: Buddhism gained prominence during the reign of the emperor Ashoka. It is primarily represented by three important building types- the Chaitya Hall (place of worship), the Vihara (monastery) and the Stupa (hemispherical mound for worship/ memory)- exemplified by the magnificent caves of Ajanta and Ellora and the monumental Sanchi Stupa. The Greek influence led the Indian architecture of the time, especially the rock-cut art, to fall under one of the two categories: the Mathura school of art which was strictly Indian in spirit and did not adopt from the Greek styles, and the Gandharva school of art which incorporated influences of the Greek art. The Jaina temples are characterised by a richness of detail that can be seen in the Dilwara Temples in Mt. Abu.

The Hindu Temples: The reference to Hindu temples in literature go back early with Panini (520 BC - 460 BC) and Patanjali mentioning temples which were called prasadas. Early beginnings of Hindu temple architecture have been traced to the remains at Aihole and Pattadakal in present day Karnataka, and have Vedic altars and late Vedic temples as described by Panini as models. Later, as more differentiation took place, the Dravidian/ Southern style and or the Indo- Aryan/ Northern/ Nagara style of temple architecture emerged as dominant modes, epitomised in productions such as the magnificent Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur, and the Sun Temple, Konark. Buddhist elements and motifs have influenced temple architecture to a considerable extent.

Early temples were rock-cut, later structural temples evolved. The Kailasanatha temple at Ellora is a good example of the former, excavated from top to bottom out of a massive rock face.

The pyramid formed an essential architectural element in any temple composition stepped in the Dravidian style, stepped and slightly curved in the Northern style. The structural system was essentially trabeated and with stone being the basic raw material for the Indian craftsman, construction could be carried out with minimal or no mortar. Decoration was fundamental to Indian architecture and is seen in the myriad details of figured sculpture as well as in the architectural elements. The garbha-griha or the womb chamber forms the central focus housing the deity of the temple and is provided with a circumambulation passage around. However, there are also many subsidiary shrines within temple complexes, more particularly in the South Indian (the Dravidian style) temple. As the Hindu temple is not meant for congregational worship, the garbhagriha is small in scale when compared to the whole temple complex. However, it is articulated externally by the vimana or the shikhara. Pillared halls or mandapas are found preceding the garbha-griha.

Islamic and the mughal architecture: With the advent of Islam, the erstwhile Indian architecture was slightly adapted to allow the traditions of the new religion, but it remained strongly Indian at its heart and character. Arches and domes began to be used and the mosque or masjid too began to form part of the landscape, adding to a new experience in form and space. The fundamental difference lay in the fact that Islam prohibited idol worship and therefore a concentrated point of focus such as the garbhagriha was unnecessary. However, the mihrab on the Western wall of the sanctuary articulating the Qibla or the direction towards Mecca offered a notional focus. As idolatry was prohibited, the main means of adornment was surface decoration through the use of geometry, arabesque and calligraphy. Later, mosques began to be built with original material. The Jami masjid at Delhi is a representative example of an Indian mosque. Islamic architecture was also represented by distinct regional styles that drew a lot of inspiration from the local context.

The most famous Islamic buildings in India emerged during the Mughal period. Mughal architecture built on the traditional Hindu architecture with influences from the Persian world. Over time, Hindu and Islamic architecture produced a synthesis that is exemplified in the glorious production of Akbar- the city of Fatehpur Sikri, considered by many to be superior to the Taj Mahal (often seen as representing India) in terms of what it has to teach to civilisation- syncretism, tolerance and the best of different worlds, and the Taj itself, renowned for its beauty in white marble, its intricate engravings, its minarets and its setting.

The most popular Islamic building type in India is the tomb or the mausoleum which evolved from the basic cube and hemisphere vocabulary of the early phase into a more elaborate form during the Mughal period where multiple chambers are present and tombs were set in a garden known as the charbagh. The tomb chamber houses the cenotaph below which is the grave. Well known examples are the Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur and the Taj Mahal, Agra.

Architecture under the colonial rule: With colonisation, a new chapter began. Though the Dutch, Portuguese and the French made substantial forays, it was the English who had a lasting impact. The architecture of the colonial period varied from the beginning attempts at creating authority through classical prototypes to the later approach of producing a supposedly more responsive image through what

is now termed Indo-Saracenic architecture- a mixture of Hindu, Islamic and Western elements. Institutional, civic and utilitarian buildings such as post offices, railway stations, etc., began to be built in large numbers over the whole empire. Perhaps the most famous example is the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) in Mumbai, originally named in honor of Queen Victoria. The creation of New Delhi in early 20th century with its broad tree lined roads and majestic buildings generated lots of debate on what should be an appropriate architecture for India

3. Indian Classical Music

Origin: The origins of Indian classical music can be found from the oldest of the scriptures, Vedas. The Samveda, one of the four vedas, describes music at length. Indian classical is heavily influenced by the spirituality and hence it has its origins as a meditation tool for attaining self realization. However, Bharat's Natyashastra is the first treatise laying down the fundamental principles of drama, dance and music. Indian classical music has one of the most complex and complete musical systems ever developed. Like western classical music, it divides the octave into 12 semitones of which the 7 basic notes are Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa.

Genres

The two main streams of Indian classical music are:

Hindustani music: The Prime themes of Hindustani music are romantic love, nature and devotionals. Players of tabla, usually keep the rhythm in Hindustani music. Another common instrument is the stringed tanpura, which is played at a steady tone throughout the performance of the raga. Other instruments for accompaniment include the sarangi and the harmonium. In Hindustani music, the performance usually begins with a slow elaboration of the raga, known as alap. This can range from long 30-40 minutes to very short 2-3 minutes depending on the style and preference of the musician. Once the raga is established, the ornamentation around the mode begins to become rhythmical, gradually speeding up. This section is called the drut or jor. Finally, the percussionist joins in and the tala is introduced. There is a significant amount of Persian influence in Hindustani music, in terms of both the instruments and the style of presentation.

Carnatic music: Carnatic raga elaborations are generally much faster in tempo and shorter than their equivalents in Hindustani music. The opening piece is called a varnam, and is a warm-up for the musicians. A devotion and a request for a blessing follows, then a series of interchanges between ragams (the unmetred melody) and thalamams (the ornamentation, equivalent to the jor). This is intermixed with hymns called krithis. This is followed by the pallavi or theme from the raga. Carnatic music is similar to Hindustani music in that it is improvised. Primary themes include worship, descriptions of temples, philosophy, nayakanayaki themes and patriotic songs. Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri are known as the Trinity of Carnatic music, while Purandara Dasa is often called the father of Carnatic music.

4. Indian Painting: The earliest Indian paintings were the rock paintings of prehistoric times, the petroglyphs as found in places like Bhimbetka, and some of them are older than 5500 BC. Such works continued and after several millennia, in the 7th century, carved pillars of Ellora, present a fine example of Indian paintings. Thereafter, frescoes of Ajanta and Ellora caves appeared. Indian paintings provide an

aesthetic continuum that extends from the early civilization to the present day. From being essentially religious in purpose in the beginning, Indian painting has evolved over the years to become a fusion of various cultures and traditions. The Indian painting was exposed to Greco-Roman as well as Iranian and Chinese influences.

Indian paintings can be broadly classified as the murals and miniatures. Murals are huge works executed on the walls of solid structures, as in the Ajanta Caves and the Kailashnath temple. Miniature paintings are executed on a very small scale on perishable material such as paper and cloth. The Palas of Bengal were the pioneers of miniature painting in India.

Murals: Early examples of murals are found in the caves of Ajanta and Bagh. Fragments of mural paintings are also found in the contemporary Pitalkhora Caves. Early evidences of the tradition of mural paintings in southern India are found in the sites of Badami and Sittanavasal. Evidences of mural paintings are also found in the Kailashnath temple in Ellora.

Miniature painting: The pattern of large scale wall painting which had dominated the scene, witnessed the advent of miniature paintings during the 11th and 12th centuries. This new style figured first in the form of illustrations etched on palm-leaf manuscripts. The contents of these manuscripts included literature on the Buddhism and Jainism.

Eastern Indian painting: In eastern India miniature painting developed in 10th century. These miniatures, depicting Buddhist divinities and scenes from the life of Buddha were painted on the leaves of the palm-leaf manuscripts as well as their wooden covers. Most common Buddhist illustrated manuscripts include the texts Astasahasrita Prajnaparamita.

Western Indian painting: In western India between the 10th to 12th century miniature painting developed. These miniatures are found in some Jaina manuscripts and are of 2 to 4 inches in size. It was in the 14th century, that paper replaced the palm leaf. The Jaina style of paintings attained a high degree of development by the late 15th and 16th century. In the 16th century, a number of Hindu illustrated manuscripts appeared in western India, which include the texts, the Gitagovinda of Jayadeva and the Bhagavata Purana.

Malwa schools of painting: A new trend in manuscript illustration was set by a manuscript of Nimatnama painted at Mandu, during the reign of Nasir Shah. This represent a synthesis of the indigenous and the Persian style of painting.

Mughal painting: Mughal paintings were a unique blend of Indian, Persian and Islamic styles. Akbar's reign ushered a new era in Indian miniature painting. During his reign more than a hundred painters were employed, most of whom were Hindus who gave birth to a new school of painting, popularly known as the Mughal School of miniature paintings. One of the first productions of that school of miniature painting was the Hamzanama series. They are in the Persian safavi style. After him, Jahangir was a good painter himself. He encouraged artists to paint portraits and durbar scenes. His most talented portrait painters were Ustad Mansur, Abdul Hasan and Bishandas. During the reign of Shahjahan this trend continued though he was more interested in architecture.

Rajput painting: Rajput painting, a style of Indian painting evolved and flourished, during the 18th century, in the royal courts of Rajputana, India. Each Rajput kingdom evolved a distinct style, but with certain common features. Rajput paintings depict a number of themes, events of epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, Krishna's life, beautiful landscapes, and humans. Miniatures were the preferred medium of Rajput painting.

Tanjore painting: Tanjore painting is an important form of classical South Indian painting native to the town of Tanjore in Tamil Nadu. These paintings are known for their elegance, rich colours and attention to details. The themes for most of these paintings are Hindu Gods and Goddesses and scenes from Hindu mythology.

Bengal school: The Bengal School of Art was an influential style of art that flourished in India during the British Raj in the early 20th century. It was associated with Indian nationalism, but was also promoted and supported by many British arts administrators. The first artist of this school was Abanindranath Tagore, a nephew of the poet Rabindranath Tagore. He painted a number of works influenced by Mughal art. Tagore's best-known painting Bharat Mata, depicted a young woman, portrayed with four arms in the manner of Hindu deities, holding objects symbolic of India's national aspirations. The Bengal school's influence in India declined with the spread of modernist ideas in the 1920s.

Modern Indian painting: During the colonial era, western influences started to make an impact on Indian art. Some artists developed a style that used Western ideas of composition, perspective and realism to illustrate Indian themes. Others, like Jamini Roy, consciously drew inspiration from folk art. The Progressive Artist's Group, established shortly after India became independent in 1947, was intended to establish new ways of expressing India in the post-colonial era. The founders were six eminent artists- K H Ara, S K Bakre, H A Gade, M F Hussain, S H Raza and F N Souza. This group was dissolved in 1956, it was profoundly influential in changing the idiom of Indian art. Almost all of India's major artists in the 1950s were associated with the group. Some of those who are well-known today are Bal Chabda, V S Gaitonde, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, Tyeb Mehta and Akbar Padamsee. Other famous painters are Jahar Dasgupta, Prodosh Karmakar and Bijon Choudhure enriched the art and culture of India. They have become the icon of modern Indian art. From 1990 to till 2009 the Indian art is growing with powerful expression.

One of them is Raj Mehta.

5. Languages of India: The languages of India primarily belong to two major linguistic families, Indo-European (whose branch Indo-Aryan is spoken by about 74% of the population) and Dravidian (spoken by about 24%). Other languages spoken in India come from the Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burmese linguistic families.

ID	State Name	State Capital	Official Language	District
1	<u>Andhra Pradesh</u>	<u>Hyderabad</u>	Telugu	23
2	<u>Arunachal Pradesh</u>	Itanagar	English	16
3	<u>Assam</u>	Dispur	Assamese	27
4	<u>Bihar</u>	Patna	Hindi	37
5	<u>Chhatisgarh</u>	Raipur	Hindi	16
6	<u>Goa</u>	Panaji	Konkani	2
7	<u>Gujarat</u>	Gandhi Nangar	Gujarati	26
8	<u>Haryana</u>	<u>Chandigarh</u>	Hindi	20
9	<u>Himachal Pradesh</u>	Shimla	Hindi	12
10	<u>Jammu and Kashmir</u>	Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)	Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri	22
11	<u>Jharkhand</u>	Ranchi	Hindi	22
12	<u>Karnataka</u>	Bengaluru	Kannada	27
13	<u>Kerala</u>	Thiruvananthapuram	Malayalam	14
14	<u>Madhya Pradesh</u>	<u>Bhopal</u>	Hindi	50
15	<u>Maharashtra</u>	Mumbai	Marathi	35
16	<u>Manipur</u>	Imphal	Manipuri	9
17	<u>Meghalaya</u>	Shillong	English	7
18	<u>Mizoram</u>	Aizawl	English	8
19	<u>Nagaland</u>	Kohima	English	8
20	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	<u>Oriya</u>	30
21	<u>Punjab</u>	Chandigarh	Punjabi	22
22	<u>Rajasthan</u>	<u>Jaipur</u>	Hindi	33
23	<u>Sikkim</u>	Gangtok	Nepali	4
24	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>	Chennai	Tamil	31
25	<u>Tripura</u>	Agartala	Bengali	4
26	<u>Uttarakhand</u>	<u>Dehradun</u>	Hindi	13
27	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>	<u>Lucknow</u>	Hindi	71
28	<u>West Bengal</u>	Kolkata	Bengali	19

ID	Union Territory	State Capital	Official Language	District
1	<u>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</u>	Port Blair	Hindi, Nicobarese, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu	4
2	<u>Chandigarh</u>	Chandigarh	Hindi, Punjabi, English	1
3	<u>Daman and Diu</u>	Daman	Gujarati	2
4	<u>Dadra and Nagar Haveli</u>	Silvassa	Gujarati, Hindi	1
5	<u>Lakshadweep</u>	Kavaratti	Jeseri (Dweep Bhasha) and Mahal	1
6	<u>Puducherry</u>	Puducherry	Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, English and French	4
7	<u>NCT of Delhi</u>	Delhi	Hindi, Punjabi	9

6. Religion; Place of Worship; Religious Book

Hinduism: Temple; Vedas; The Bhagwad Gita; Ramayana; Mahabharata.

Islam: Mosque; Koran.

Judaism : Synagogue; Torah.

Sikhism: Gurudwara; Guru Granth Sahib.

Christianity: Church; Bible. Zoroastrianism (Parsi religion): Fire Temple; ZendAvesta.

Buddhism : Temple; Pitakas;

Jainism: Temple; Angas

IV. Famous Sites in India:

Adina Mosque: Pandua (West Bengal)

Ajanta Caves: Aurangabad (Maharashtra)

Akbar's Tomb: Sikandra, Agra

Aksherdham: Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Amarnath Cave: Kashmir

Amber Palace: Jaipur (Rajasthan)

Anand Bhawan: Allahabad

Bibi Ka Maqbra: Aurangabad

Birla Planetarium: Kolkata

Black Pagoda: Konarak (Orissa)

Bodhistava: Ajanta Caves

Brihadeeswara: Tanjore Temple

Brindaban Gardens: Mysore

Buland Darwaza: Fatehpur Sikri

Char Minar: Hyderabad

Cheena Kesava Temple: Bellur

Chilka Lake: East Coast of India near Bhubaneswar

Dal Lake: Srinagar

Dilwara Temples: Mt Abu

Elephanta Caves: Mumbai

Ellora Caves: Aurangabad

Gateway of India: Mumbai

Golden Temple: Amritsar

Gol Gumbaz: Bijapur

Hanging Gardens: Mumbai

Hawa Mahal: Jaipur

Howrah Bridge: Kolkata

Island Palace: Udaipur

Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb: Agra

Jagannath Temple: Puri

Jahaz Mahal: Mandu

Jai Stambha (Tower of Victory): Chittorgarh

Jama Masjid: Delhi

Jantar Mantar: New Delhi
Jog (Gersoppa) Falls: Mysore
Kailasa Temple: Ellora
Kalan Masjid: Delhi
Kanyakumari Temple: Cape Comorin (Tamil Nadu)
Khajuraho: Bhopal
Konarak: Puri
Lakshmi Vilas Palace: Baroda
Lal Bagh Garden: Bengaluru
Lalgarh Palace: Bikaner
Lingaraj Temple: Bhubaneswar
Mahakaleshwar Temple: Ujjain
Maheshmurti (Trimurti): Elephanta Caves
Mahmud Gawan's Mosque: Bidar
Malabar Hill: Mumbai
Marble Rocks: Jabalpur
Marina: Chennai
Minakshi Temple: Madurai
Mt Girnar (Jain Temples): Junagadh
Nagin Lake: Srinagar
Nataraja: Chennai
Nishat Bagh: Srinagar
Padmanabha Temple: Thiruvanthapuram
Palitana: Junagadh
Panch Mahal: Fatehpur Sikri
Pichola Lake: Udaipur
Qutab Minar: Delhi
Raj Ghat: Delhi
Rashtrapati Bhawan: Delhi
Red Fort: Delhi
Sanchi Tope (The Great Stupa): Sanchi, Bhopal
Santa Cruz: Mumbai
Shakti Sthal: Delhi
Shalimar Bagh: Srinagar
Shahi Chashma: Srinagar
Shanti Van: Delhi
Shore Temple: Mahabalipuram
Sidi Sayyid Mosque: Ahmedabad
Somnathpur Temple: Mysore
Statue of Gomateswara: Mysore
Statue of Ugra: Hampi
Sunderbans: West Bengal
Sun Temple: Konarak
Taj Mahal: Agra
Tehzeeb Mahal: Srinagar

Tirupati Temple: Andhra Pradesh

Tower of Silence: Mumbai (of the Parsis)

Victoria Memorial: Kolkata

Victoria Garden: Mumbai

Vijay Ghat: Delhi

V. Major Newspapers /Journals of India:

News Papers/ Journals	Founder/Editors
Bengal Gazette (India's first news paper, 1780)	J. K. Hikki
Amrit Bazar Patrika	Shishir Kr. Ghosh & Motilal Ghosh
Keshri	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Maharatta	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Sudharak	G. K. Gokhle
Vande Mataram	Aurobindo Ghosh
Native Opinion	V. N. Mandalik
Kavivachan Sudha	Bhartendu Harishchandra
Rast Goftar (First News Paper in Gujrati)	Dadabhai Naoroji
<u>New India</u>	Bipin Chandra Pal
Statesman	<u>Robert Knight</u>
Hindu	Vir Raghavacharya & G. S. Aiyar
Sandhya	B. B. Upadhyaya
Vichar Lahiri	Krishna Shastri Chiplunkar
Hindu Patriot	Girish Chandra Ghosh
Som Prakash	Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
Yugantar	Bhupendra Nath Datta & Barindra Kumar Ghosh
Bombay Chronicle	Firoze Shah Mehta
Hindustan	Madan Mohan Malviya
Mooknayak	B. R. Ambedkar
Comrade	Mohammed Ali
Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq	Sir Syeed Ahmed Khan
Al-Hilal	Abul Kalam Azad
Al-Balagh	Abul Kalam Azad
Independent	Motilal Nehru
Punjabi	Lala Lajpat Rai
New India	Annie Besant
Commonweal	Annie Besant
Pratap	Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi
Essays in Indian Economics	Mahadev Govind Ranade
Samvad Kaumudi (Bengali)	Ram Mohan Roy
Mirat-ul-Akhbar (First Persian News Paper)	Ram Mohan Roy
Indian <u>Mirror</u>	Devendra Nath Tagore
Nav Jeevan	M. K. Gandhi

Young India	M. K. Gandhi
Harijan	M. K. Gandhi
Prabudha Bharat	Swami Vivekananda
Udbodhana	Swami Vivekananda
Indian Socialist	Shyamji Krishna Verma
Talwar (in Berlin)	Birendra Nath Chattopadhyay
Free Hindustan	Tarak Nath Das
Hindustan Times	K. M. Pannikar
Kranti	Mirajkar, Joglekar, Ghate

VI. Firsts in India:

1. Following is the list of First In India (Male Personalities):

S. No	Role	Name
1	The First President Of Indian Republic	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
2	The First Prime Minister Of Free India	Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru
3	The First Indian To Win Nobel Price	Rabindranath Tagore
4	The First President Of Indian National Congress	W. C. Banerjee
5	The First Muslim President Of Indian National Congress	Badruddin Tayyabji
6	The First Muslim President Of India	Dr. Zakir Hussain
7	The First British Governor General Of India	Lord William Bentinck
8	The First British Viceroy Of India	Lord Canning
9	The First Governor General Of Free India	Lord Mountbatten
10	The First And The Last Indian To Be Governor General Of Free India	C. Rajagopalachari
11	The First Man Who Introduced Printing Press In Free India	James Hicky
12	The First Indian To Join I.C.S.	Satyendra Nath Tagore
13	India's First Man In Space	Rakesh Sharma
14	The First Prime Minister In India Who Resigned Without Completing The Full Term	Morarji Desai
15	The First Indian Commander-in-Chief Of India	General Cariappa
16	The First Chief Of The Army Staff	Gen. Maharaj Rajendra Singh Ji
17	The First Indian Member Of The Viceroy's Executive Council	S. P. Sinha
18	The First President Of India Who Died While In Office	Dr. Zakir Hussain
19	The First Prime Minister Of India Who Did Not Face The Parliament	Charan Singh
20	The First Field Marshal Of India	S. H. F. Manekshaw
21	The First Indian To Get Nobel Price In Physics	C. V. Raman
22	The First Indian To Recieve Bharat Ratna Award	Dr. Radhakrishnan
23	The First Indian To Cross English Channel	Mihir Sen
24	The First Indian To Receive Jnanpith Award	Sri Shankar Kurup
25	The First Speaker Of The Lok Sabha	Ganesh Vasudeva Mavalankar

2. Following is the list of First In India (Female Personalities):

S. No.	Role	Female Personalities
1	The First lady to become Miss World	Reita Faria
2	First Woman Judge in Supreme Court	Mrs Meera Sahib Fatima Bibi
3	The First Woman Ambassador	Ms C B Muthamma
4	The First Woman Governor Of a State In free India	Mrs Sarojini Naidu
5	The First Woman Prime Minister	Mrs Indira Gandhi
6	The First Woman to climb Mt. Everest	Bachhendri Pal
7	The First Woman to climb Mt. Everest Twice	Santosh Yadav
8	The First Woman President of the Indian National Congress	Mrs Annie Besant
9	The First Woman Chief Justice of a High Court	Mrs Leela Seth
10	The First Woman Pilot in Indian Air Force	Harita Kaur Dayal
11	The First Woman president of the United Nations General Assembly	Mrs Vijaya Laxmi Pandit
12	The First Woman Chief Minister of an Indian state	Mrs. Sucheta Kriplani
13	The First Woman Chairman of union Public service commission	Roze Millian Bethew
14	The First Woman Director General of Police (D.G.P.)	Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya
15	The First Lieutenant General	Puneeta Arora
16	First Woman Air Vice Marshal	P Bandhopadhyaya
17	First Woman Chairperson of Indian Airlines	Sushma Chawla
18	First Woman I.P.S. Officer	Mrs Kiran Bedi
19	The First & last Muslim ruler of Delhi	Razia Sultan
20	The First Woman to Recieve Ashoka Chakra	Neerja Bhanot
21	The First Woman to cross English Channel	Aarti Saha
22	The First Woman to Recieve Nobel Prize	Mother Teresa
23	The First Woman to Recieve Bharat Ratna	Mrs. Indira Gandhi
24	The First Woman to Recieve Jnanpith Award	Asha Purna Devi
25	The First Woman President of India	Pratibha Patil

3. Following is the list of First In India (General):

S. No.	Role	Miscellaneous
1	First Air Force In Asia To Fly Jets	Indian Air Force
2	First Book Printed In Language	Tamil
3	First Census Of India	1901
4	First Cinema House In India Was Built	J.F. Madan In Calcutta In 1907
5	First Complete Technicolor Film	Jhansi Ki Rani
6	First Constitutional Amendment	1950
7	First Country-Wide Agricultural Census	1970-71
8	First English Newspaper in India	Bengal Gazette
9	First Film Centre	Nandan (Calcutta)

10	First Film with an all-female cast	Marathi Film Bindhast
11	First Five-Year Plan	Started in 1951
12	First General Elections	1952
13	First hydroelectric project in India	Shivasamudram, across the River Kaveri in 1902
14	First Indian state to set up a women's court	Andhra Pradesh
15	First international co-production	Nala Damayanti
16	First Marine National Park	Jamnagar
17	First Moonlit Animal House in Asia	Located in the Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.
18	First Navodaya School	Navegaon-Khairi in Nagpur
19	First Postage Stamp	It was issued in India in 1852 at Karachi.
20	First Printing Press	It was set up in Goa in 1556 by the Portuguese.
21	First Railway Line	It was opened on April 16, 1853 between Bombay and Thane.
22	First Rupee in India	It was minted during the reign of Sher Shah Suri in 1542.
23	First ship built in India	Jala Usha built by Vishakapatnam Shipyard was commissioned in 1948.
24	First silent feature film in India	Pundalik
25	First solar crematorium	It is proposed to be set up in Valsad, Gujarat.
26	First Solar Energy Centre	Gwalpahar, Gurgaon, Haryana
27	First song-less film	JBH Wadia's Naujawan
28	First south Indian film to be released in Korea	Tamil Film Muthu Maharaja
29	First Talkie Film	Alam Ara
30	First Telefilm	Satyajit Ray's Sadgat
31	First Telegraph Line	It was laid between Calcutta and Agra in 1854
32	First Telephone system	It was started in 1881 from Calcutta
33	First Television Reception Centre	Arvi, located in Maharashtra
34	First veterinary college	Opened in Parel in Bombay in 1885
35	First Wind farm	Mandvi, Kutch in Gujarat
36	India's first Antartica expedition	January 11, 1982
37	India's first Satellite	Aryabhata, April 19, 1975
38	India's first colour film	Sairandhri
39	India's first fully indigenous silent feature film	Raja Harishchandra
40	India's first indigenously built missile destroyer	INS 'Delhi'
41	India's first indigenously built submarine	INS 'Shakti'
42	India's first indigenously made colour film	Kisan Kanya
43	India's first manufacturer of light bulbs and electrical equipment	Bengal Lamps, Calcutta
44	India's First Oil well	Digboi
45	India's first radio programme	ClubRadio in 1924.

46	India's First largest inland lake	Lake Chilika, Orissa
47	First Largest circulated multi-edition daily in India	Roudramukhi Swar
48	First Largest circulated periodical in India	Malayala Manorama
49	First Largest circulated single edition newspaper in India	Hindustan Times from Delhi
50	First Largest Nandi in India	Nandi of the Leepakshi Temple at Andhra Pradesh
51	First Largest Stupa in India	Mahachaitya Stupa, Amravati, Andhra Pradesh
52	World's First University	Taxila (700 B.C.)

VII. Other Information:

1. Agricultural Products:

Cashewnuts - States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa.

Coconut and Copra - Chiefly grown in Kerala. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and also to some extent in West Bengal, Assam, Maharashtra and Orissa.

Coffee - Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu.

Cotton - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, U.P, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Jute- West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, U.P., Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Maize - U.P., Bihar, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Millets - (Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Cholum) Rajasthan, M.P., U.P., Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

Opium - Ghazipur and Varanasi districts of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

Oil Seeds - (Linseed, rapeseed, cotton-seed, sesame, castor seed and groundnuts)- All over India, Chiefly in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Sandal Wood - Karnataka.

Sugarcane- All over India, chiefly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

Spices - Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

Tea - Darjeeling in West-Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Dehradun, and Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu.

Tobacco - Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, Dindigal Cigars are known everywhere.

Wheat - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana.

Saffron - Kashmir

Cardamom - Karanataka.

2. Minerals

Manganese - India ranks third in the world in respect of Manganese. It is largely found in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Coal- India stands seventh in the international production of coal. It is concentrated in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, India has a reserve of about 1,21,360 million tonnes of coal.

Mica- India has three main mica belts in Bihar, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. It is indispensable in the manufacture of electrical appliances. India supplies eighty percent of world's requirement of mica and the best quality of mica is available in Hazari Bagh in Bihar. India ranks first in the production of mica.

Gold - India's 95 per cent of gold production comes from the Kolar Fields in Karnataka. The only other working mine is at Hani also in Karnataka. India's production is only about 2% of the world output.

Lignite - It is found in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Kashmir. It is a soft brown type of coal.

Iron Ore - India possesses world's 4th largest reserves of iron ore. It is largely found in Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh.

Salt - it is mainly derived from sea. India enjoys a high position among salt-producing countries of the world. Principal producing centres are along the Malabar coast and Inland in Rajasthan (Sambar lake) and Gujarat.

Saltpetre - Crude Saltpetre is used as manure, when refined it is used as fire in works, soap, matches and ceramic industries. It is found in Bihar, U.P. and Punjab.

Monazite - It is found on the beach-beds of Kerala state. It is richest in thorium and also contains uranium. These are used in atomic fission.

Ilmenite - It is the whitest of all substances and is used in pigments. India is the world's leading producer of ilmenite and the reserves have been estimated as 35,000 tonnes which occur in black and on the beaches near Kanya Kumari (Tamil Nadu).

Petroleum - Digboi Rudrasagar, Naharkatia (Assam), Lunej, Ankelshwar (Gujarat), Bombay High near Bombay.

Diamonds - Diamond mines are in Panna in Madhya Pradesh. They cover an area of 750 square miles.

3. Important Industries:

1. Cotton Textile Industry - Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, U.P., Delhi, Kerala and Karnataka.

2. Steel Industry- Rourkela(Orissa), Bhilai (M.P.), Durgapur (W.Bengal), Jamshedpur(Bihar), Burnpur (W. Bengal), Bhadrawati (Karnataka).

3- Paper Industry- Calcutta (W. Bengal), Lucknow (U.P.), Bombay (Maharashtra), Saharanpur(U.P.), Poona (Maharashtra), Thapar Mill, Jagadahri (Haryana), Ballarpur (Maharashtra).

4. Jute Industry-Calcutta (W. Bengal).

5. Sugar- U.P., Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana.

6. Leather- Kanpur (U.P.), Calcutta (W. Bengal), Agra (U.P.), Madras (Tamil Nadu).

7. Silk - Mysore (Karnataka), Murshidabad (W. Bengal), Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir), and Bhagalpur (Bihar).

8. Woolen - Kanpur (U.P.), Dhariwal, Ludhiana and Amritsar (Punjab), Bombay (Maharashtra).

9. Aluminium Industry - Alwaye (Kerala), Asansol (W. Bengal), Katni (M.P.), Renukot (U.P.)

10. Antibiotic Factories- Bangalore (Karnataka), Kanpur (U.P.), Rishikesh (U.P.), Delhi.

11. Aircraft Factories - Bangalore (Karnataka), Kanpur (U.P.)

12. Cement Industry -Porbander (Gujarat), Katni (M.P.). Dalmianager (Bihar), Churk(U.P.), Surajpur (Haryana), Sindri (Bihar), Lakheri (Rajasthan), Guntur (M.P.)

13. Newsprint – Neapanagar (M.P)

14. Oil Refineries - Noonmati (Assam), Barauni (Bihar), Koyali (Gujarat), Mathura (U.P.), Haldia (West Bengal), Madras (Tamil Nadu), and Cochin (Kerala) in public sector, Trombay (Maharashtra), Visakhapatnam (A.P.), Digboi (Assam) in private sector.

15. Locomotive Industry - Chittraanjan (W. Bengal), Varanasi (U.P), Jamshedpur (Bihar).

16. Fertilizers - Sindri (Bihar), Naya Nangal and Bathinda (Punjab), Panipat (Haryana), Neyveli (Tamil Nadu), Trombay (Maharashtra), Gorakhpur (U.P.), Visakhapatnam (A.P.) Noonmati (Assam), Alwaye (Kerala), Kota (Rajasthan), Rourkela (Orissa), Baroda (Gujarat), Durgapur (W. Bengal), Korba (M.P), Panki near Kanpur (U.P), Cochin (Kerala), Kandla (Gujarat), Guna (Vijaypur, M.P.)

17. Ship Building - Mazagon Dock (Bombay), Visakhapatnam (A.P.), Cochin (Kerala).

18. Coach Factories - Perambur (Tamil Nadu), Kapurthala (Punjab).

19. Heavy Electricals - Bhopal (M.P), Hardwar (U.P).

4. Major Ports of India: Kandla (Gujarat), Mumbai and Jawaharlal port (Maharashtra), Marmugao (Goa), Mangalore (Karnataka), Cochin (Kerala). Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). Paradeep (Orissa) and Calcutta (West Bengal) are termed as the major ports of India. A new major port at Nhava Sheva called Jawaharlal constructed off Mumbai coast, cost Rs. 506 the main item of export from Vizag, Marmugao and Mangalore.

5. Important Hill Stations in India:

Station	State
Almora	U.P.
Cheerapunji	Meghalaya
Coonoor	Tamil Nadu
Dalhousie	Himachal Pradesh
Darjeeling	West Bengal
Gulmarg	Kashmir
Kasauli	H.P.
Mahabaleshwar	Maharashtra
Mount Abu	Rajasthan
Mussoorie	U.P.
Nainital	U.P.
Panchamari	M.P.
Ranikhet	U.P.
Shillong	Meghalaya

6. Important Towns on RIVER banks:

Agra	U. P.	Yamuna
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Sabarmati
Allahabad	U. P.	Confluence of Ganga & Yamuna
Alwaye	Kerala	Periyar
Ayodhya	U. P.	Surya
Bhagalpur	Bihar	Ganga
Badrinath	U. P.	Gangotri

Buxar	Bihar	Ganga
Calcutta	West Bengal	Hoogly
Cuttack	Orissa	Mahanadi
Delhi	Delhi	Yamuna
Dilbrugarh	Assam	Brahmaputra
Ferozepore	Punjab	Sutlej
Gauhati	Assam	Brahmaputra
Hardwar	U. P.	Ganga
Howrah	West Bengal	Hoogly
Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir	Tawi
Kanpur	U. P.	Ganga
Kota	Rajasthan	Chambal
Lucknow	U. P.	Gomti
Mathura	U. P.	Yamuna
Moradabad	U. P.	Ramganga
Monghyr	Bihar	Ganga
Nangal	Punjab	Sutlej
Nasik	Maharashtra	Godavari
Patna	Bihar	Ganga
Ropar	Punjab	Sutlej
Srinagar	Kashmir	Jhelum
Surat	Gujarat	Tapti
Ticchirapalli	Tamil Nadu	Cavery
Vijyawada	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna
varanasi	U.P.	Ganga
Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Narmada
Jameshedpur	Bihar	Subarnalekha
Jammu	J & K	Ravi
Leh	Jammu & Kashmir	Indus
Ludhiana	Punjab	Sutlej
Yamuna Nagar	Haryana	Yamuna