

1. People who ride on roller coasters have a higher chance of having a blood clot in the brain.
2. Black bears are not always black they can be brown, cinnamon, yellow and sometimes white.
3. People with blue eyes see better in dark.
4. Each year 30,000 people are seriously injured by exercise equipment.
5. The placement of a donkey's eyes in its head enables it to see all four feet.
6. The sun is 330330 times larger than the earth.
7. The cow gives nearly 200000 glass of milk in her lifetime.
8. There are more female than male millionaires in the U.S.A.
9. A male baboon can kill a leopard.
10. When a person dies, hearing is usually the first sense to go.
11. Bill gates house was designed using Macintosh computer.
12. Nearly 22,000 cheques will be deducted from the wrong account over the next hour.
13. Almost all varieties of breakfast cereals are made from grass.
14. Some lions mates over 50 times a day.
15. American did not commonly use forks until after the civil war.
16. The most productive day of the week is Tuesday.
17. In the 1930's America track star Jesse Owens used to race against horses and dogs to earn a living.
18. There is a great mushroom in Oregon that is 2,400 years old. It Covers 3.4 square miles of land and is still growing.
19. Jimmy Carter is the first USA president to have born in hospital.
20. Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.
21. Cleopatra married two of her brothers.
22. Human birth control pill works on gorillas.
23. The right lung takes in more air than the left.
24. It is illegal to own a red car in shanghai china.
25. A hard-boiled egg will spin. An uncooked or soft-boiled egg will not.
26. Astronauts cannot burp in space.
27. The snowiest city in the USA is Blue Canyon, California.
28. Lake Nicaragua in Nicaragua is the only fresh water lake in the world that has sharks.
29. Kite flying is a professional sport in Thailand.
30. The great warrior Genghis khan died in bed while having sex.
31. No matter how cold it gets gasoline will not freeze.
32. SNAILS have 14175 teeth laid along 135 rows on their tongue.
33. A BUTTERFLY has 12,000 eyes.
34. Dolphins sleep with 1 eye open.
35. A BLUE WHALE can eat as much as 3 tones of food everyday, but at the same time can live without food for 6 months.
36. The EARTH has over 12,00,000 species of animals, 3,00,000 species of plants & 1,00,000 other species.
37. The fierce DINOSAUR was TYRANNOSAURS which has sixty long & sharp teeth, used to attack & eat other dinosaurs.
38. DEMETRIO was a mammal like REPTILE with a snail on its back. This acted as a radiator to cool the body of the animal.
39. CASSOWARY is one of the dangerous BIRDS that can kill a man or animal by tearing off with its dagger like claw.
40. The SWAN has over 25,000 feathers in its body.
41. OSTRICH eats pebbles to help digestion by grinding up the ingested food.
42. POLAR BEAR can look clumsy & slow but during chase on ice, can reach 25 miles / hr of speed.
43. KIWIS are the only birds, which hunt by sense of smell.
44. ELEPHANT teeth can weigh as much as 9 pounds.
45. OWL is the only bird, which can rotate its head to 270 degrees.
46. In the last 4000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
47. On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.
48. The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
49. Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.
50. Tapeworms range in size from about 0.04 inch to more than 50 feet in length.
51. German Shepherds bite humans more than any other breed of dog.
52. A female mackerel lays about 500,000 eggs at one time.
53. Crane sleeps standing on one leg.
54. Shark cannot see, they are very sensitive to sound.
55. Sneezing stops heart beat for a second and then continues.
56. Shape of the backbone is important to have sufficient breathing.
57. Tortoise has very sharp teeth it can rip open the stomach of whale with its teeth.

1. In the weightlessness of space a frozen pea will explode if it comes in contact with Pepsi.
2. The increased electricity used by modern appliances is causing a shift in the Earth's magnetic field. By the year 2327, the North Pole will be located in mid-Kansas, while the South Pole will be just off the coast of East Africa.
3. The idea for "tribbles" in "Star Trek" came from gerbils, since some gerbils are actually born pregnant.
4. Male rhesus monkeys often hang from tree branches by their amazing prehensile penises.
5. Johnny Plessey batted .331 for the Cleveland Spiders in 1891, even though he spent the entire season batting with a rolled-up, lacquered copy of the Toledo Post-Dispatch.
6. Smearing a small amount of dog feces on an insect bite will relieve the itching and swelling.
7. The Boeing 747 is capable of flying upside-down if it weren't for the fact that the wings would shear off when trying to roll it over.
8. The trucking company Elvis Presley worked at as a young man was owned by Frank Sinatra.
9. The only golf course on the island of Tonga has 15 holes, and there's no penalty if a monkey steals your golf ball.
10. Legislation passed during WWI making it illegal to say "gesundheit" to a sneezer was never repealed.
11. Manatees possess vocal chords which give them the ability to speak like humans, but don't do so because they have no ears with which to hear the sound.
12. SCUBA divers cannot pass gas at depths of 33 feet or below.
13. Catfish are the only animals that naturally have an ODD number of whiskers.
14. Replying more than 100 times to the same piece of spam e-mail will overwhelm the sender's system and interfere with their ability to send any more spam.
15. Polar bears can eat as many as 86 penguins in a single sitting.
16. The first McDonald's restaurant opened for business in 1952 in Edinburgh, Scotland, and featured the McHaggis sandwich.
17. The Air Force's F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumblebees fly.
18. You can get blood from a stone, but only if it contains at least 17 percent bauxite.
19. Silly Putty was "discovered" as the residue left behind after the first latex condoms were produced. It's not widely publicized for obvious reasons.
20. Approximately one-sixth of your life is spent on Wednesdays.
21. The skin needed for elbow transplants must be taken from the scrotum of a cadaver.
22. The sport of jai alai originated from a game played by Incan priests who held cats by their tails and swung at leather balls. The cats would instinctively grab at the ball with their claws, thus enabling players to catch them.
23. A cat's purr has the same romance-enhancing frequency as the voice of singer Barry White.
24. The typewriter was invented by Hungarian immigrant Qwert Yuiop, who left his "signature" on the keyboard.
25. The volume of water that the Giant Sequoia tree consumes in a 24-hour period contains enough suspended minerals to pave 17.3 feet of a 4-lane concrete freeway.
26. King Henry VIII slept with a gigantic axe.
27. Because printed materials are being replaced by CD-ROM, microfiche and the Internet, libraries that previously sank into their foundations under the weight of their books are now in danger of collapsing in extremely high winds.
28. In 1843, a Parisian street mime got stuck in his imaginary box and consequently died of starvation.
29. Touch-tone telephone keypads were originally planned to have buttons for Police and Fire Departments, but they were replaced with * and # when the project was cancelled in favor of developing the 911 system.
30. Human saliva has a boiling point three times that of regular water.
31. Calvin, of the "Calvin and Hobbes" comic strip, was patterned after President Calvin Coolidge, who had a pet tiger as a boy.
32. Watching an hour-long soap opera burns more calories than watching a three-hour baseball game.
33. Until 1978, Camel cigarettes contained minute particles of real camels.
34. You can actually sharpen the blades on a pencil sharpener by wrapping your pencils in aluminum foil before inserting them.
35. To human taste buds, Zima is virtually indistinguishable from zebra urine.
36. Seven out of every ten hockey-playing Canadians will lose a tooth during a game. For Canadians who don't play hockey, that figure drops to five out of ten.
37. A dog's naked behind leaves absolutely no bacteria when pressed against carpet.
38. A team of University of Virginia researchers released a study promoting the practice of picking one's nose, claiming that the health benefits of keeping nasal passages free from infectious blockages far outweigh the negative social connotations.
39. Among items left behind at Osama bin Laden's headquarters in Afghanistan were 27 issues of Mad Magazine. Al Qaeda members have admitted that bin Laden is reportedly an avid reader.
40. Urine from male cape water buffaloes is so flammable that some tribes use it for lantern fuel.

41. At the first World Cup championship in Uruguay, 1930, the soccer balls were actually monkey skulls wrapped in paper and leather.
42. Every Labrador retriever dreams about bananas.
43. If you put a bee in a film canister for two hours, it will go blind and leave behind its weight in honey.
44. Due to the angle at which the optic nerve enters the brain, staring at a blue surface during sex greatly increases the intensity of orgasms.
45. Never hold your nose and cover your mouth when sneezing, as it can blow out your eyeballs.
46. Centuries ago, purchasing real estate often required having one or more limbs amputated in order to prevent the purchaser from running away to avoid repayment of the loan. Hence an expensive purchase was said to cost "an arm and a leg."
47. When Mahatma Gandhi died, an autopsy revealed five gold Krugerrands in his small intestine.
48. Aardvarks are allergic to radishes, but only during summer months.
49. Coca-Cola was the favored drink of Pharaoh Ramses. An inscription found in his tomb, when translated, was found to be almost identical to the recipe used today.
50. If you part your hair on the right side, you were born to be carnivorous. If you part it on the left, your physical and psychological make-up is that of a vegetarian.
51. When immersed in liquid, a dead sparrow will make a sound like a crying baby.
52. In WWII the US military planned to airdrop over France propaganda in the form of Playboy magazine, with coded messages hidden in the models' turn-ons and turn-offs. The plan was scrapped because of a staple shortage due to rationing of metal.
53. Although difficult, it's possible to start a fire by rapidly rubbing together two Cool Ranch Doritos.
54. Napoleon's favorite type of wood was knotty chestnut.
55. The world's smartest pig, owned by a mathematics teacher in Madison, WI, memorized the multiplication tables up to 12.
56. Due to the natural "momentum" of the ocean, saltwater fish cannot swim backwards.
57. In ancient Greece, children of wealthy families were dipped in olive oil at birth to keep them hairless throughout their lives.
58. It is nearly three miles farther to fly from Amarillo, Texas to Louisville, Kentucky than it is to return from Louisville to Amarillo.
59. The "nine lives" attributed to cats is probably due to their having nine primary whiskers.
60. The original inspiration for Barbie dolls comes from dolls developed by German propagandists in the late 1930s to impress young girls with the ideal notions of Aryan features. The proportions for Barbie were actually based on those of Eva Braun.
61. The Venezuelan brown bat can detect and dodge individual raindrops in mid-flight, arriving safely back at his cave completely dry.

1. Shakespeare invented the word 'assassination' and 'bump'.
2. Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
3. The ant always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.
4. The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
5. The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet.
6. Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear By 700 times.
7. Ants don't sleep.
8. Owls have eyeballs that are tubular in shape, because of this, they cannot move their eyes.
9. A bird requires more food in proportion to its size than a baby or a cat.
10. The mouse is the most common mammal in the US.
11. A newborn kangaroo is about 1 inch in length.
12. A cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime.
13. The Canary Islands were not named for a bird called a canary. They were named after a breed of large dogs. The Latin name was Canariae insulae – "Island of Dogs."
14. There are 701 types of pure breed dogs.
15. A polecat is not a cat. It is a nocturnal European weasel.
16. The animal responsible for the most human deaths world-wide is the mosquito.
17. The biggest pig in recorded history was Big Boy of Black Mountain, North Carolina, who was weighed at 1,904 pounds in 1939.
18. Cats respond most readily to names that end in an "ee" sound.
19. A cat cannot see directly under its nose. This is why the cat cannot seem to find tidbits on the floor.
20. Pigs, walruses and light-colored horses can be sunburned.
21. Snakes are immune to their own poison.
22. An iguana can stay under water for 28 minutes.
23. Cats have more than one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.
24. The biggest member of the cat family is the male lion, which weighs 528 pounds (240 kilograms).
25. Most lipstick contains fish scales.
26. Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants.
27. Each day in the US, animal shelters are forced to destroy 30,000 dogs and cats.
28. A shrimp's heart is in their head.
29. A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.
30. A cockroach will live nine days without its head, before it starves to death.
31. The cat lover is an ailurophile, while a cat hater is an ailurophobe.
32. A woodpecker can peck twenty times a second.
33. It may take longer than two days for a chick to break out of its shell.
34. Dragonflies are one of the fastest insects, flying 50 to 60 mph.
35. Despite man's fear and hatred of the wolf, it has not ever been proved that a non-rabid wolf ever attacked a human.
36. There are more than 100 million dogs and cats in the United States.
37. Americans spend more than 5.4 billion dollars on their pets each year.
38. Cat's urine glows under a black light.
39. The largest cockroach on record is one measured at 3.81 inches in length.
40. It is estimated that a single toad may catch and eat as many as 10,000 insects in the course of a summer.
41. Amphibians eyes come in a variety shapes and sizes. Some even have square or heart-shaped pupils.
42. It would require an average of 18 hummingbirds to weigh in at 1 ounce.
43. Dogs that do not tolerate small children well are the St. Bernard, the Old English sheep dog, the Alaskan malamute, the bull terrier, and the toy poodle.
44. Moles are able to tunnel through 300 feet of earth in a day.
45. Howler monkeys are the noisiest land animals. Their calls can be heard over 2 miles away.
46. A quarter of the horses in the US died of a vast virus epidemic in 1872.
47. The fastest bird is the Spine-tailed swift, clocked at speeds of up to 220 miles per hour.
48. There is no single cat called the panther. The name is commonly applied to the leopard, but it is also used to refer to the puma and the jaguar. A black panther is really a black leopard. A capon is a castrated rooster.
49. The world's largest rodent is the Capybara. It is an Amazon water hog that looks like a guinea pig; it can weigh more than 100 pounds.
50. The poison-arrow frog has enough poison to kill about 2,200 people.
51. The hummingbird, the loon, the swift, the kingfisher, and the grebe are all birds that cannot walk.
52. The poisonous copperhead snake smells like fresh cut cucumbers.
53. A chameleon's tongue is twice the length of its body.
54. Worker ants may live seven years and the queen may live as long as 15 years.
55. The blood of mammals is red, the blood of insects is yellow, and the blood of lobsters is blue.

56. Cheetahs make a chirping sound that is much like a bird's chirp or a dog's yelp. The sound is so intense; it can be heard a mile away.
57. The underside of a horse's hoof is called a frog. The frog peels off several times a year with new growth.
58. The bloodhound is the only animal whose evidence is admissible in an American court. 98% of brown bears in the United States are in Alaska.
59. Before air conditioning was invented, white cotton slipcovers were put on furniture to keep the air cool.
60. The Barbie doll has more than 80 careers.
61. To make one pound of whole milk cheese, 10 pounds of whole milk is needed.
62. 99% of pumpkins are sold for decoration.
63. Every 30 seconds a house fire doubles in size.
64. The month of December is the most popular month for weddings in the Philippines.
65. A one ounce milk chocolate bar has 6 mg of caffeine.
66. Carbon monoxide can kill a person in less than 15 minutes.
67. The largest ever hailstone weighed over 1kg and fell in Bangladesh in 1986.
68. Ants can live up to 16 years.
69. In Belgium, there is a museum that is just for strawberries.
70. The sense of smell of an ant is just as good as a dog's.
71. Popped popcorn should be stored in the freezer or refrigerator as this way it can stay crunchy for up to three weeks.
72. Coca-Cola was originally green.
73. The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
74. The name of all the continents ends with the same letter that they start with.
75. The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.
76. TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
77. Women blink nearly twice as much as men!!
78. You can't kill yourself by holding your breath.
79. It is impossible to lick your elbow.
80. People say "Bless You?" when you sneeze because when you sneeze, your heart stops for a millisecond.
81. It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
82. The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.
83. If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die.
84. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents great king from history. Spades – King David, Clubs – Alexander the Great, Hearts ? Charlemagne, Diamonds – Julius Caesar.
85. $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
86. If a statue of a person in the park on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
87. What do bullet proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all have in common? Ans. – All invented by women.
88. This is the only food that doesn't spoil. What is this? Answer: Honey.
89. A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
90. A snail can sleep for three years.
91. All polar bears are left handed.
92. American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.
93. Butterflies taste with their feet.
94. Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
95. In the last 4000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
96. On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.
97. The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
98. Most lipstick contains fish scales.
99. Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.
100. Tapeworms range in size from about 0.04 inch to more than 50 feet in length.
101. A baby bat is called a pup.
102. German Shepherds bite humans more than any other breed of dog.
103. A female mackerel lays about 500,000 eggs at one time.
104. It takes 35 to 65 minks to produce the average mink coat. The numbers for other types of fur coats are: beaver – 15; fox – 15 to 25; ermine – 150; chinchilla – 60 to 100.

Ancient World to First World War

10,000 BC: Semi-permanent settlements come up in Africa, Asia and Europe.

10,000-4,000 BC: Settlements turn into protocities. Development such as wheel, pottery and improved methods of cultivation in Mesopotamia and other places.

C. 5000 BC: Beginning of civilization in Mesopotamia which is considered to be oldest civilization.

3000-1500 BC: Mature phase of Indus Valley civilization.

3000-1000 BC: Egyptian Civilization grew on the banks of Nile river.

2000 BC: Man discovered Iron.

800 BC: Flourishing of Greek civilization.

776 BC: First Olympiad in Greece.

753 BC: Rome founded.

58 BC: Caesar's invasion of Gaul.

55 BC: Roman invasion of Britain by Julius Caesar.

4 BC: Birth of Jesus Christ. AD

30 AD: Crucification of Jesus Christ.

43 AD: Roman conquest of Britain.

570 AD: Birth of Prophet Mohammad.

600 AD: The end of the Roman Empire.

622 AD: Beginning of Hijri Era (Muslim Calendar).

800 AD: Charlemagne crowned Roman Emperor at St. Peter's.

1066 AD: The Norman conquest of England; Battle of Hastings and accession of William the Conqueror.

1215 AD: Signing of Magna Carta (June 15).

1348 AD: Black Death Plague in England.

1492 AD: Columbus sailed for the New World on his first voyage and discovered America.

1588 AD: Defeat of Spanish Armada.

1649 AD: King Charles I beheaded; Beginning of Commonwealth.

1660 AD: The restoration of British Monarchy.

1688 AD: Bloodless or Glorious Revolution in England.

1689 AD: Establishment of British Constitutional Monarchy.

1776 AD: Declaration of American Independence (July4).

1789 AD: French Revolution (Aug 27); George Washington elected the first President of America.

1805 AD: Battle of Trafalgar; British Fleet under Lord Nelson defeated French and Spanish Fleets.

1815 AD: Battle of Waterloo (June 18). Exile of Napoleon Bonaparte to St. Helena (Oct

16).

1821 AD: Panama, Guatemala, and Santo Domingo proclaim independence from Spain.

1822 AD: Greece proclaims independence from Turkey.

1824 AD: Mexico becomes Republic.

1833 AD: Slavery abolished in Britain.

1837 AD: Victoria becomes queen of British empire.

1839-42 AD : First opium war between Britain and China.

1848-49 AD: US-Mexico war ends with Mexico giving up claims to Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Nevada.

1852 AD: South African republic established.

1858 AD: Queen Victoria appointed Empress of India; Abraham Lincoln abolishes slavery in America.

1865 AD: American civil war ends with the defeat of proslavery supporters. President Lincoln is assassinated.

1866 AD: Prussia and Italy defeat Austria in Seven Years war.

1867 AD: Dominion of Canada is established; USA buys Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000.

1869 AD: Suez canal opens.

1870 AD: Revolt in Paris, third republic established.

1871 AD: Franco-Prussian war ends. France surrenders Alsace-Lorraine to Germany; German empire is proclaimed with Prussian king Kaiser Wilhelm I.

1878 AD: Russo-Turkish war ends.

1887 AD: Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

1889 AD: The Eiffel Tower is built.

1893 AD: New Zealand becomes first country to grant woman the right to vote.

1895 AD: Sino-Japanese war ends with China accepting defeat.

1896 AD: First Olympic games begins in Athens.

1901 AD: Queen Victoria passes away.

1904 AD: Russo-Japanese War.

1909 AD: Discovery of North Pole by Commander Peary.

1912 AD: Establishment of the Chinese Republic.

1914 AD: World War I (July 28).

1916 AD: Battle of Verdun (France) between France and Germany (during World War I) (Feb 21).

1917 AD: Revolution in Russia; Bolsheviks come into power ending Tzar's regime.

1918 AD: End of World War I (Nov 11).

Historical Events

- 1311-04-24** – Gen Malik Kafur returns to Delhi after campaign in South India
- 1329-08-09** – Quilon the first Indian Diocese was erected by Pope John XXII and Jordanus was appointed the first Bishop
- 1459-05-12** – Sun City India founded by Rao Jodhpur
- 1497-07-08** – Vasco da Gama departs for trip to India
- 1498-05-20** – Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama arrives at Calcutta India
- 1500-03-09** – Pedro Cabral departs with 13 ships to India
- 1502-02-12** – Vasco da Gama sets sail from Lisbon, Portugal on his second voyage to India.
- 1509-02-02** – The Battle of Diu takes place near Diu, India, between Portugal and Turkey.
- 1509-02-03** – The Battle of Diu, between Portugal and the Ottoman Empire takes place in Diu, India.
- 1542-05-06** – Francis Xavier reaches Old Goa, the capital of Portuguese India at the time.
- 1556-03-28** – Origin of Fasli Era (India)
- 1565-01-25** – Battle at Talikota India: Moslems destroy Vijayanagar's army
- 1575-03-03** – Indian Mughal Emperor Akbar defeats Bengali army at the Battle of Tukaroi.
- 1597-08-20** – 1st Dutch East India Company ships returned from Far East
- 1600-12-31** – British East India Company chartered
- 1601-02-13** – John Lancaster leads 1st East India Company voyage from London
- 1602-03-20** – United Dutch East Indian Company (VOC) forms
- 1608-08-24** – 1st English convoy lands at Surat India
- 1609-03-25** – Henry Hudson embarks on an exploration for Dutch East India Co
- 1612-08-29** – Battle at Surat India: English fleet beats Portuguese
- 1614-04-05** – American Indian princess Pocahontas, daughter of chief Powhatan marries English colonist John Rolfe
- 1621-06-03** – Dutch West India Company receives charter for "New Netherlands" (NY)
- 1622-03-22** – 1st American Indian (Powhattan) massacre of whites Jamestown Virginia, 347 slain
- 1633-10-22** – Ming dynasty fight with Dutch East India Company that Battle of southern Fujian sea (1633), Ming dynasty won great victory.
- 1639-08-22** – Madras (now Chennai), India, is founded by the British East India Company on a sliver of land bought from local Nayak rulers.
- 1641-01-14** – United East Indian Company conquerors city of Malakka, 7,000 killed
- 1641-08-26** – West India Company conquerors Sao Paulo de Loanda, Angola
- 1643-12-25** – Christmas Island founded and named by Captain William Mynors of the East India Ship Company vessel, the Royal Mary.
- 1658-12-09** – Dutch troops occupy harbor city Quilon (Coilan) India

1668-03-26 – England takes control of Bombay India

1668-03-27 – English king Charles II gives Bombay to East India Company

1690-02-08 – French & Indian troops set Schenectady settlement NY on fire

1690-08-24 – Job Charnock founds Calcutta India

1692-02-29 – Sarah Good & Tituba, an Indian servant, accused of witchcraft, Salem

1699-04-14 – Khalsa: Birth of Khalsa, the brotherhood of the Sikh religion, in Northern India in accordance with the Nanakshahi calendar.

1733-05-29 – The right of Canadians to keep Indian slaves is upheld at Quebec City.

1737-10-07 – 40 foot waves sink 20,000 small craft & kill 300,000 (Bengal, India)

1737-10-11 – Earthquake kills 300,000 and destroys half of Calcutta India

1739-02-24 – Battle of Karnal: The army of Iranian ruler Nadir Shah defeats the forces of the Mughal emperor of India, Muhammad Shah.

1739-03-20 – Nadir Shah occupies Delhi in India and sacks the city, stealing the jewels of the Peacock Throne.

1751-08-31 – English troops under sir Robert Clive occupy Arcot India

1752-06-09 – French army surrenders to the English in Trichinopoly India

1755-04-02 – Commodore William James captures the pirate fortress of Suvarnadurg on west coast of India.

1755-07-09 – Brit Gen E Braddock mortally wounded during French & Indian War

1756-05-17 – Britain declares war on France (7 Years' or French & Indian War)

1756-06-20 – 146 Brit soldiers imprisoned in India-Black Hole of Calcutta-most die

1756-06-20 – India rebels defeat Calcutta on British army

1756-09-08 – French and Indian War: Kittanning Expedition.

1756-12-06 – British troops under Robert Clive occupy Fulta India

1757-01-02 – British troops occupy Calcutta India

1757-11-05 – Battle at Rossbach (7 year war/French & Indian War)

1758-05-21 – Mary Campbell is abducted from her home in Pennsylvania by Lenape during the French and Indian War.

1759-04-08 – British troops chase French out of Masulipatam India

1760-01-22 – Battle at Wandewash India: British troops beat French

1761-01-07 – Battle at Panipat India: Afghan army beats Mahratten

1761-01-16 – The British capture Pondicherry, India from the French.

1764-11-09 – Mary Campbell, a captive of the Lenape during the French and Indian War, is turned over to forces commanded by Colonel Henry Bouquet.

1767-09-28 – Gentlemen 17 forbid private slave transport India to Cape of Good Hope

1772-02-12 – Yves de Kerguelen of France discovers Kerguelen Archipelago, India

1773-10-14 – American Revolutionary War: The United Kingdom's East India Company tea ships' cargo are burned at Annapolis, Maryland.

1783-04-09 – Tippu Sahib drives out English from Bednore India

1786-02-24 – Charles Cornwallis appointed governor-general of India

1795-03-11 – Battle at Kurdla India: Mahratten beat Mogols

1796-04-13 – 1st elephant arrives in US from India

1798-09-01 – England signs treaty with nizam of Hyderabad, India

1800-07-10 – The British Indian Government establishes the Fort William College to promote Urdu, Hindi and other vernaculars of sub continent.

1803-02-27 – Great fire in Bombay, India

1803-09-23 – Battle of Assaye-British-Indian forces beat Maratha Army

1806-07-10 – The Vellore Mutiny is the first instance of a mutiny by Indian sepoys against the British East India Company.

1818-06-03 – Maratha Wars between British & Maratha Confederacy in India ends

1829-12-04 – Britain abolished “suttee” in India (widow burning herself to death on her husband’s funeral pyre

1835-02-24 – Siwinowe Kesibwi (Shawnee Sun) is 1st Indian lang monthly mag

1838-11-03 – The Times of India, the world’s largest circulated English language daily broadsheet newspaper is founded as The Bombay Times and Journal of Commerce.

1839-01-10 – Tea from India 1st arrives in UK

1839-01-19 – Aden conquered by British East India Company

1839-11-25 – A cyclone slams India with high winds and a 40 foot storm surge, destroying the port city of Coringa (never to be entirely rebuilt again). The storm wave sweeps inland, taking with it 20,000 ships and thousands of people. An estimated 300,000 deaths result from the disaster.

1842-01-06 – 4,500 British & Indian troops leave Kabul, massacred before India

1846-01-28 – Battle of Allwal, Brits beat Sikhs in Punjab (India)

1846-02-10 – British defeat Sikhs in battle of Sobraon, India

1846-02-16 – Battle of Sobraon ends 1st Sikh War in India

1849-03-29 – Britain formally annexes Punjab after defeat of Sikhs in India

1851-12-22 – The first freight train is operated in Roorkee, India.

1853-04-16 – The first passenger rail opens in India, from Bori Bunder, Bombay to Thane.

1857-05-10 – Indian Mutiny begins with revolt of Sepoys of Meerut

1858-07-28 – William Herschel of the Indian Civil Service in India

1858-08-02 – Govt of India transferred from East India Company to Crown

1859-02-10 – Gen Horsford defeats Begum of Oude & Nana Sahib in Indian mutiny

1865-11-11 – Treaty of Sinchula is signed in which Bhutan ceded the areas east of the Teesta River to the British East India Company.

1866-06-11 – The Allahabad High Court (then Agra High Court) is established in India.

1868-04-13 – Abyssinian War ends as British and Indian troops capture Magdala.

1870-09-08 – Neth & Engl sign “Koelietraktaat” Br-Indian contract work in Suriname

1876-10-31 – A monster cyclone ravages India, resulting in over 200,000 human deaths.

1877-01-01 – England’s Queen Victoria proclaimed empress of India

1879-05-14 – The first group of 463 Indian indentured labourers arrive in Fiji aboard the Leonidas.

1882-06-06 – Cyclone in Arabian Sea (Bombay India) drowns 100,000

1884-09-26 – Suriname army shoots on British-Indian contract workers, 7 killed

1888-04-20 – 246 reported killed by hail in Moradabad, India

1888-12-18 – Richard Wetherill and his brother-in-law discover the ancient Indian ruins of Mesa Verde.

1889-03-23 – The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was established by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in Qadian India.

1891-09-18 – Harriet Maxwell Converse is 1st white woman to become an Indian chief

1892-07-06 – Dadabhai Naoroji elected as first Indian Member of Parliament in Britain.

1897-06-12 – Possibly most severe quake in history strikes Assam India, shock waves felt over an area size of Europe (negligible death toll)

1905-04-04 – Earthquake in Kangra India, kills 20,000

1905-10-16 – The Partition of Bengal (India) occurred.

1906-12-30 – The All India Muslim League is founded in Dacca, East Bengal, British India Empire, which later laid down the foundations of Pakistan.

1907-05-01 – Indian Mine Laws passes (concessions from Neth-Indies)

1911-02-18 – The first official flight with air mail takes place in Allahabad, British India, when Henri Pequet, a 23-year-old pilot, delivers 6,500 letters to Naini, about 10 km away.

1911-03-25 – L D Swamikannu publishes “Manual of Indian Chronology” in Bombay

1911-12-12 – Delhi replaces Calcutta as the capital of India.

1913-11-06 – Mohandas K Gandhi arrested for leading Indian miners march in S Afr

1914-06-30 – Mahatma Gandhi’s 1st arrest, campaigning for Indian rights in S Africa

1916-05-13 – 1st observance of Indian (Native American) Day

1916-05-24 – Last British-Indian contract workers arrive in Suriname

1917-03-11 – World War I: Baghdad falls to the Anglo-Indian forces commanded by General Stanley Maude.

1918-05-18 – Neth Indian Volksraad installed in Batavia

1919-04-13 – Amritsar Massacre-British Army fires on nationalist rioters in India

1919-04-13 – British forces kill 100s of Indian Nationalists (Amritsar Massacre)

1919-08-13 – British troops fire on Amritsar India demonstrators; killing 350

1919-09-10 – Indian’s Ray Caldwell no-hits Yankees 3-0

1920-03-23 – Perserikatan Communist of India (PKI) political party forms

1920-10-10 – Indian Bill Wambsganns makes 1st unassisted World Series triple play

1920-10-10 – Indian's Elmer Smith hits 1st World Series grand slam

1922-03-18 – Brit magistrates in India sentence Gandhi to 6 years for disobedience

1925-12-26 – The Communist Party of India is founded.

1926-08-28 – Indian Emil Levens pitches complete doubleheader victory (Red Sox)

1926-12-28 – Imperial Airways begins England-India mail & passenger service

1928-08-30 – Jawaharlal Nehru requests independence of India

1929-01-06 – Mother Teresa arrives in Calcutta to begin a her work amongst India's poorest and diseased people.

1929-01-26 – Indian National Congress proclaims goal for India's independence

1929-04-08 – Indian Independence Movement: At the Delhi Central Assembly, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt throw handouts and bombs to court arrest.

1929-04-24 – 1st non-stop England to India flight takes-off

1929-04-26 – 1st non-stop England to India flight lands

1930-03-08 – Mahatma Gandhi starts civil disobedience in India

1931-02-10 – New Delhi becomes capital of India

1931-03-23 – Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev embrace the gallows during the Indian struggle for independence. Their request to be shot by a firing squad is refused.

1932-10-08 – The Indian Air Force is established.

1932-10-15 – Tata Airlines (later to become Air India) makes its first flight.

1933-01-28 – The name Pakistan is coined by Choudhary Rehmat Ali Khan and is accepted by the Indian Muslims who then thereby adopted it further for the Pakistan Movement seeking independence.

1933-05-08 – Mohandas Gandhi begins a 21-day fast in protest against British oppression in India.

1934-01-15 – 8.4 earthquake in India/Nepal, 10,700 die

1934-04-07 – In India, Mahatma Gandhi suspended his campaign of civil disobedience

1934-08-02 – William Franks twirls an indian club overhead 17,280 times in 1 hour

1936-02-08 – Pandit Jawaharlal follows Gandhi as chairman of India Congress Party

1936-04-01 – Orissa constituted a province of British India

1938-10-02 – Indian Bob Feller strikes out record 18 Tigers (Chester Laabs 5 times)

1938-11-16 – K B Regiment refuses round-table conference in East-India

1939-03-03 – In Mumbai, Mohandas Gandhi begins to fast in protest of the autocratic rule in India.

1939-03-10 – 17 villages damaged by hailstones in Hyderabad India

1939-04-13 – In India, the Hindustani Lal Sena (Indian Red Army) is formed and vows to engage in armed struggle against the British.

1939-05-03 – The All India Forward Bloc is formed by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

1940-03-23 – All-India-Moslem League calls for a Moslem homeland

1940-03-23 – The Lahore Resolution (Qarardad-e-Pakistan or the then Qarardad-e-Lahore) is put forward at the Annual General Convention of the All India Muslim League.

1940-07-02 – Indian independence leader Subhas Chandra Bose is arrested and detained in Calcutta.

1941-05-25 – 5,000 drown in a storm at Ganges Delta region in India

1941-11-24 – Indian infantry attacks German tanks at Sidi Omar

1942-08-09 – Mahatma Gandhi & 50 others arrested in Bombay after passing of a “quit India” campaign by the All-India Congress

1942-10-16 – Cyclone in Bay of Bengal kills some 40,000 south of Calcutta India

1943-12-30 – Subhash Chandra Bose raises the flag of Indian independence at Port Blair.

1944-04-01 – Japanese troops conquer Jessami, East-India

1944-04-14 – Freighter “Fort Stikene” explodes in Bombay India, killing 1,376

1944-08-19 – Last Japanese troops driven out of India

1945-11-13 – Australian Services draw 1st Victory Test against India

1946-03-15 – British premier Attlee agrees with India's right to independence

1946-08-08 – India agrees to give Bhutan 32 sq miles

1946-09-02 – Nehru forms govt in India

1946-12-01 – Australia compile 645 v India at the Gabba (Bradman 187)

1947-02-20 – Lord Mountbatten appointed as last viceroy of India

1947-06-03 – British viceroy of India lord Mountbatten visits Pakistan

1947-07-18 – King George VI signs Indian Independence Bill

1947-08-14 – India granted independence within British Commonwealth

1947-08-15 – India declares independence from UK, Islamic part becomes Pakistan

1947-08-17 – The Radcliffe Line, the border between Union of India and Dominion of Pakistan is revealed.

1947-10-26 – Maharajah of Jammu & Kashmir accedes to India

1948-01-01 – Bradman scores 132 in the 1st innings of the 3rd Test v India

1948-01-01 – Orissa province accedes to India

1948-01-01 – After partition, India declines to pay the agreed share of Rs.550 million in cash balances to Pakistan.

1948-01-03 – Bradman completes dual Test tons (132 & 127*) v India MCG

1948-01-23 – Bradman scores 201 in 272 mins v India, 21 fours 1 six

1948-01-23 – Test debut of Neil Harvey, v India at Adelaide

1948-01-24 – Australia all out 674 v India (Bradman 201, Hassett 198*)

1948-04-15 – Indian territory of Himachal Pradesh created

1948-06-21 – Lord Mountbatten resigns as gov-gen of India

1948-09-12 – Invasion of the State of Hyderabad by the Indian Army on the day after the Pakistani leader Jinnah's death.

1949-01-14 – Black/Indian race rebellion in Durban, South Africa; 142 die

1949-02-19 – Mass arrests of communists in India

1949-03-05 – The Jharkhand Party is founded in India.

1949-05-12 – 1st foreign woman ambassador received in US (S V L Pandit India)
1949-09-23 – Indian owner Bill Veeck holds funeral services to bury 1948 pennant
1949-10-15 – Administration of territory of Manipur taken over by Indian govt
1949-10-15 – Tripura accedes to Indian union
1949-11-26 – India adopts a constitution as a British Commonwealth Republic
1949-12-30 – India recognizes People's Republic of China
1950-01-01 – The state of Ajaigarh is ceded to the Government of India.
1950-01-26 – India becomes a republic ceasing to be a British dominion
1950-07-02 – Indian Bob Feller, wins his 200th game, 5-3 over Detroit
1950-08-15 – 8.6 earthquake in India kills 20,000 to 30,000
1950-08-15 – Srikakulam district is formed in Andhra Pradesh, India.
1950-10-26 – Mother Teresa found her Mission of Charity in Calcutta, India
1950-11-06 – King Tribhuvana of Nepal flees to India
1950-12-05 – Sikkim becomes a protectorate of India

1952-01-21 – Nehru's Congress party wins general election in India
1952-05-13 – Pandit Nehru becomes premier of India
1952-05-13 – The Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India, holds its first sitting.
1952-07-19 – Freddie Trueman takes 8-31, India all out 58 at Old Trafford
1952-07-19 – India all out 82 in 2nd innings after making 52 earlier in the day
1952-10-16 – Pakistan's 1st Test starts, v India at Delhi
1952-10-18 – Vinoo Mankad takes 13 Pakistan wkts to win 1st India-Pak clash
1952-10-25 – Nazar Mohammad scores Pakistan's 1st Test century 124* v India
1953-04-01 – Walcott Worrell & Weekes all make centuries in innings v India
1953-10-01 – Indian state of Andhra Pradesh partitioned from Madras
1954-11-01 – India takes over administration of 4 French Indian settlements
1955-04-11 – The Air India Kashmir Princess is bombed and crashes in a failed assassination attempt on Zhou Enlai by the Kuomintang.
1955-04-30 – Imperial Bank of India nationalized
1955-05-02 – India poses discrimination "onaanraakbaren" punishable
1955-06-07 – India premier Nehru visit USSR
1956-09-01 – Indian state of Tripura becomes a territory
1956-09-02 – Collapse of a RR bridge under a train kills 120 (India)
1956-11-01 – Delhi becomes a territory of Indian union
1956-11-01 – Indian state of Madhya Pradesh forms
1956-11-01 – Indian states of Punjab, Patiala & PEPSU merge as Punjab protection

1956-11-01 – Formation of Kerala state in India.

1957-01-26 – India annexes Kashmir

1957-03-22 – Republic of India adopts Saka calendar along with Gregorian

1959-01-01 – Rohan Kanhai completes 256 v India at Calcutta

1959-03-17 – Dalai Lama flees Tibet for India

1959-03-31 – Dalai Lama fled China & was granted political asylum in India

1959-07-27 – Abbas Ali Baig scores 112 for India v England on debut

1959-08-24 – England complete 5-0 series drubbing of India

1959-09-21 – 600 Indian Dutch emigrate to US

1959-10-23 – Chinese troops move into India, 17 die

1959-12-20 – Jasu Patel takes 9-69, India v Australia at Kanpur

1960-02-12 – Chinese army kills 12 Indian soldiers

1960-05-01 – India's Bombay state split into Gujarat & Maharashtra states

1961-11-05 – India's premier Nehru arrives in NY

1961-12-17 – India seizes Goa & 2 other Portuguese colonies

1961-12-18 – India annexes Portuguese colonies of Goa, Damao & Diu

1962-02-25 – India Congress Party wins elections

1962-05-30 – 69 killed in bus crash (Ahmedabad India)

1962-09-08 – Chinese troops exceed Mac-Mahon-line (Tibet-India boundary)

1962-10-10 – Indies assault up Chinese positions in North-India attack

1962-10-20 – Chinese army lands in India

1962-11-21 – The Chinese People's Liberation Army declares a unilateral cease-fire in the Sino-Indian War.

1963-05-28 – Estimated 22,000 die in another cyclone in Bay of Bengal (India)

1963-12-01 – Nagaland becomes a state of Indian union

1964-01-13 – Hindu-Muslim rioting breaks out in the Indian city of Calcutta – now Kolkata – resulting in the deaths of more than 100 people.

1964-02-09 – Hanumant Singh scores 105 India v England on debut at Delhi

1964-06-02 – Lal Bahadur Sastri elected premier of India

1964-10-29 – Star of India & other jewels are stolen in NY

1964-12-23 – India & Ceylon hit by cyclone, about 4,850 killed

1965-01-08 – Star of India returned to American Museum of Natural History

1965-04-09 – India & Pakistan engage in border fight

1965-05-11 – 1st of 2 cyclones in less than a month kills 35,000 (India)

1965-05-25 – India & Pakistan border fights

1965-05-28 – Fire & explosion at Dhoru mine in Dhanbad India kills 400

1965-06-02 – 2nd of 2 cyclones in less than a month kills 35,000 (Ganges R India)

1965-08-06 – Indian troops invade Pakistan

1965-09-01 – India & Pakistan border fights

1965-09-06 – India invades West Pakistan

1965-09-07 – China announces that it will reinforce its troops in the Indian border.

1965-09-22 – India & Pakistan ceases-fire goes into effect

1966-01-10 – India & Pakistan sign peace accord

1966-01-19 – Indira Gandhi elected India's 3rd prime minister

1966-04-06 – Mihir Sen swims Palk Strait between Sri Lanka & India

1966-06-24 – Bombay-NY Air India flight crashes into Mont Blanc (Switz), 117 die

1966-11-01 – Indian Haryana state created from Punjab; Chandigarh terr created

1966-12-13 – Test debut of Clive Lloyd, v India Bombay, 82 & 78

1967-05-06 – Zakir Hussain elected 1st Moslem president of India

1967-06-09 – Boycott scores 246* v India, Leeds, 573 minutes, 29 fours 1 six

1967-09-04 – 6.5 earthquake of Kolya Dam India, kills 200

1967-09-11 – Indian/Chinese border fights

1967-12-11 – 6.5 earthquake in West India, 170 killed

1968-01-31 – Bobby Simpson takes 5-59 v India in his last Test for ten years

1968-02-16 – Beatles George Harrison & John Lennon & wives fly to India for transcendental meditation study with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

1968-12-25 – 42 Dalits are burned alive in Kilavenmani village, Tamil Nadu, India, a retaliation for a campaign for higher wages by Dalit labourers.

1969-12-25 – India all out for 163 at Madras v Aust, Ashley Mallett 5-91

1970-04-02 – Meghalaya becomes autonomous state within India's Assam state

1971-01-25 – Himachal Pradesh becomes 18th Indian state

1971-03-09 – J M Noreiga takes 9-95 WI v India at Port-of-Spain

1971-08-24 – India beat England by 4 wickets, their win against the Poms

1971-11-21 – Indian troops partly aided by Mukti Bahini (Bengali guerrillas) defeat the Pakistan army in the Battle of Garibpur.

1971-12-03 – Indo-Pakistani War of 1971: India invades West Pakistan and a full scale war begins claiming hundreds of lives.

1971-12-04 – The UN Security Council calls an emergency session to consider the deteriorating situation between India and Pakistan.

1971-12-04 – The Indian Navy attacks the Pakistan Navy and Karachi.

1971-12-16 – India's army occupies Dacca, West Pakistani troops surrenders

1971-12-17 – Cease fire between India & Pakistan in Kashmir

1972-01-21 – Manipur, Meghalaya & Tripura become separate states of Indian union

1972-01-21 – Mizoram, formerly part of Assam, creates an Indian union territory

1972-01-21 – Tripura becomes a full-fledged state in India.

1972-03-19 – India & Bangladesh sign friendship treaty

1972-07-02 – India & Pakistan sign peace accord

1972-07-10 – Herd of stampeding elephants kills 24, Chandka Forest India

1972-12-17 – New line of control agreed to in Kashmir between India & Pakistan

1972-12-23 – Chandrasekhar takes 8-79 India v England at Delhi

1973-02-09 – Biju Patnaik of the Pragati Legislature Party elected leader of opposition in the state assembly in Orissa, India.

1973-02-27 – American Indian Movement occupy Wounded Knee in South Dakota

1973-02-27 – Members of American Indian Movement begin occupation of Wounded Knee

1973-07-07 – 78 drown as flash flood sweeps a bus into a river (India)

1973-08-28 – India & Pakistan sign POW accord

1973-11-01 – The Indian state of Mysore was renamed as Karnataka to represent all the regions within Karunadu .

1974-05-18 – India becomes 6th nation to explode an atomic bomb

1974-07-13 – India's 1st one-day international (v England, Headingley)

1974-11-07 – 63rd Davis Cup: South Africa beats India in (w/o)

1975-01-29 – W I win Fifth Test against India to take exciting series 3-2

1975-04-19 – India launches 1st satellite with help of USSR

1975-05-16 – India annexes Principality of Sikkim

1975-05-19 – Farm truck packed with wedding party struck by a train, killing 66 in truck, 40 miles south of Poona, India

1975-06-26 – Indian PM Indira Gandhi declares a state of emergency

1975-06-26 – Two FBI agents and a member of the American Indian Movement are killed in a shootout on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota; Leonard Peltier is later convicted of the murders in a controversial trial.

1975-07-20 – India expels three reporters from The Times, The Daily Telegraph, and Newsweek because they refused to sign a pledge to abide by government censorship.

1975-12-27 – Explosion at Chasnala Colliery collapses drowning 350 (Dhanbad India)

1976-02-17 – Richard Hadlee takes 7-23 v India, his 1st match-winning spell

1976-04-12 – India set 403 to win by WI They get them, 6 wkts 7 overs spare

1976-04-25 – India all out for 97 v West Indies

1977-01-19 – World's largest crowd-12.7 million-for Indian religious festival

1977-03-20 – Premier Indira Gandhi loses election in India

1977-03-22 – Indira Gandhi resigns as PM of India

1977-03-28 – Morarji Desai forms govt in India

1977-12-17 – Bobby Simpson scores 176 Australia v India at the WACA, aged 41

1978-01-01 – Air India B747 explodes near Bombay killing 213

1978-01-03 – Chandrasekar takes 6-52 & 6-52 at MCG in Indian innings win

1978-02-03 – Australia beat India 3-2 on 6th day of final test

1978-02-03 – India needing 493 to beat Australia at Adelaide, all out 445

1978-10-16 – Test debut of Kapil Dev, India v Pakistan at Faisalabad

1978-12-19 – Indira Gandhi ambushed in India

1978-12-26 – India's former PM, Indira Gandhi, released from jail

1979-01-02 – Gavaskar gets twin tons for India for the third time (v WI)

1979-02-07 – Faoud Bacchus scores 250 for WI v India at Kanpur

1979-06-01 – Vizianagaram district is formed in Andhra Pradesh, India.

1979-06-07 – Bhaskara 1, Indian Earth resources/meteorology satellite, launched

1979-07-15 – Morarji Desai resigns as premier of India

1979-07-17 – David Gower 200* in England score of 5-633 v India at Edgbaston

1979-08-20 – India premier Charan Singh resigns

1979-09-04 – India need 438 to win v England, game ends at 8-429

1979-09-20 – The Punjab wing of the Unity Centre of Communist Revolutionaries of India (Marxist-Leninist) formally splits and constitutes a parallel UCCRI(ML).

1979-10-17 – Mother Teresa of India, awarded Nobel Peace Prize

1980-01-06 – Indira Gandhi's Congress Party wins elections in India

1980-07-18 – Rohini 1, 1st Indian satellite, launches into orbit

1981-01-03 – Greg Chappell scores 204 v India at the SCG

1981-01-08 – India all out 63 in one-day international v Australia

1981-01-24 – Kim Hughes scores 213 v India at Adelaide

1981-02-11 – Australia all out 83 v India at MCG chasing 143 to win

1981-06-06 – A passenger train travelling between Mansi and Saharsa, India, jumps the tracks at a bridge crossing the Bagmati river. The government places the official death toll at 268 plus another 300 missing; however, it is generally believed that the actual figure is closer to 1,000 killed.

1981-06-19 – India's APPLE satellite, 1st to be stabilized on 3 axes, launched

1981-07-16 – India performs nuclear Test

1981-10-14 – Citing official misconduct in the investigation and trial, Amnesty International charges the U.S. government with holding Richard Marshall of the American Indian Movement as a political prisoner.

1982-07-09 – Botham scores 208 in 225 balls, England v India at The Oval

1982-07-27 – Indian PM Indira Gandhi 1st visit to US in almost 11 years

1982-12-27 – Imran Khan 8-60 to bring innings victory v India at Karachi

1983-01-15 – Javed Miandad & Mudassar Nazar make 451 stand v India

1983-02-22 – Hindus kill 3000 Moslems in Assam, India

1983-04-17 – India entered space age launching SLV-3 rocket

1983-11-16 – Kapil Dev takes 9-83 v WI at Ahmedabad, but India still lose

1983-11-27 – Desmond Haynes out handled the ball v India

1984-02-01 – Ravindara Mhatrem, Indian diplomat, kidnapped in England (killed 0203)

1984-04-03 – Soyuz T-11 carries 3 cosmonauts (1 Indian-Rakesh Sharma) to Salyut 7

1984-04-15 – Extremist Sikhs plunder 40 stations in Punjab India

1984-06-06 – 1,200 die in Sikh "Golden Temple" uprising India

1984-08-03 – Bomb attack on Madras India airport, 32 killed

1984-09-28 – 1st floodlit ODI outside of Australia (India v Aust, New Delhi)

1984-11-03 – 3,000 die in 3 day anti-Sikh riot in India

1984-11-03 – Body of assassinated Indian PM Indira Gandhi cremated

1984-12-03 – 2,000 die from Union Carbide poison gas emission in Bhopal, India

1984-12-28 – Rajiv Gandhi's Congress party wins election in India

1984-12-29 – Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi claims victory in parlimetary elections

1984-12-31 – Rajiv Gandhi takes office as India's 6th PM succeeds his mom, Indira

1985-01-15 – Mike Gatting & Graeme Fowler both scores 200's v India

1985-04-08 – India files suit against Union Carbide over Bhopal disaster

1985-05-11 – Booby trap bomb kills 86 people in India

1985-06-23 – Bomb destroys Air India Boeing 747 in air near Ireland, 329 die

1985-08-17 – Rajiv Gandhi announces Punjab state elections in India

1985-09-25 – Akali Dal wins Punjab State election in India

1985-12-13 – David Boon's 1st Test century, 123 v India at Adelaide

1985-12-13 – Test debut of Merv Hughes, Geoff Marsh & Bruce Reid (v India)

1986-01-04 – David Boon's second Test century, 131 v India at Adelaide

1986-02-02 – Dalai Lama meets Pope John Paul II in India

1986-02-11 – Australia beat India 2-0 to win the World Series Cup

1986-03-28 – Extremist Sikhs kill 13 hindus in Ludhiana India

1986-07-25 – Sikhs extremist kill 16 hindus in Muhktsar India

1986-09-19 – Dean Jones scores 210 v India at Madras

1986-10-02 – Failed assassination attempt on India premier Rajiv Gandhi

1986-10-02 – Sikhs attempt to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

1986-10-19 – Allan Border scores the 1,000,000th run in Tests (v India, Bombay)

1987-07-06 – 1st of 3 massacres by Sikh extremists takes place in India

1987-11-25 – India all out for 75 v West Indies at Delhi, Patterson 5-24

1987-12-11 – Test debut of Carl Hooper, WI v India at Bombay

1987-12-20 – 76th Davis Cup: Sweden beats India in Gothenburg (5-0)

1988-01-11 – Test debut of Phil Simmons, WI v India, Madras

1988-07-21 – ESA's Ariane-3 launches 2 communications satellites (1 Indian)

1988-08-20 – 6.5 earthquake strikes India/Nepal, 1,000s killed

1988-11-30 – Cyclone lashes Bangladesh, Eastern India; 317 killed

1989-10-20 – Pakistan win Sharjah Trophy over India & WI on round-robin

1989-11-29 – India president Rajiv Gandhi, resigns

1989-12-02 – Vishwanath Pratap Singh sworn in as president of India

1990-02-23 – Ian Smith 173* NZ v India, 136 balls, world record for no 9 bat

1990-03-24 – Indian troops leave Sri Lanka

1990-03-27 – Bus accidentally touches high voltage wire in Karagpur India; 21 die

1990-04-17 – Gas explodes on passenger train in Kumrahar India, 80 die

1990-07-27 – Graham Gooch scores 333 v India at Lord's

1990-07-30 – Graham Gooch scores 123 v India to follow up 1st innings 333

1990-12-10 – Hindu-Muslim rebellion in Hyderabad-Aligarch India, 140 die

1991-10-16 – Jharkhand Chhatra Yuva Morcha is founded at a conference in Ranchi, India.

1991-10-20 – 6.1-7.1 earthquake in Uttar Kashi, India, about 670 die

1991-10-25 – Aaqib Javed takes 7-37 in 10 overs v India in cric 1-dayer at Sharjah

1991-12-26 – Militant Sikhs kill 55 & wound 70 in India

1992-01-02 – Test debut of Shane Warne, v India at Sydney

1992-01-20 – Australia beat India 2-0 to win the World Series Cup

1992-01-28 – Boon completes twelfth Test century, 135 v India at Adelaide

1992-05-20 – India launches its 1st satellite independently

1992-05-22 – India launches its Agni rocket

1992-06-23 – "Tin Bigha Day" protest in India of corridor opening to Bangladesh

1992-06-26 – India leases Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh

1992-10-18 – Start of Zimbabwe's 1st Test match, v India at Harare

1992-10-20 – David Houghton gets Zimbabwe's 1st Test ton (121 v India, debut)

1992-12-06 – 300,000 hindus destroy mosque of Babri India, 4 die

1993-01-23 – Indian Airlines B737 crashes at Aurangabad, 61 die

1993-01-29 – Test debut of Vinod Kambli, prolific Indian batsman

1993-02-23 – India complete a 3-0 series drubbing of England

1993-09-30 – 6.4 earthquake at Latur, India, 28,000 killed

1994-01-25 – Mine fire at Asansol India, kills 55

1994-03-15 – Experts from AL certify Indian's Jacobs Field is properly lit

1994-04-13 – United Arab Emirates' 1st official ODI, losing to India

1994-05-20 – Miss India (Sushmita Sen) selected Miss Universe

1994-05-21 – Sushmita Sen, 18, of India, crowned 43rd Miss Universe

1994-07-24 – Bodo kills 37 Moslems in Bashbari NE India

1994-07-29 – India army kills 27 Moslem militants

1994-10-29 – National Museum of American Indian opens (NYC)

1994-11-19 – Aishwarya Rai, 21, of India, crowned 44th Miss World

1995-02-25 – Bomb attack on train in Assam India (27 soldiers killed)

1995-03-12 – Congress party loses India national election

1996-03-09 – Javed Miandad's last international in Pak's WC QF loss to India

1996-03-13 – Sri Lanka beat India in World Cup semi as riots stop play

1996-08-20 – India defeat Pakistan in Under-15 World Challenge Final at Lord's

1996-09-16 – 1st one-day international in Canada, India v Pakistan at Toronto

1997-03-13 – India's Missionaries of Charity chooses Sister Nirmala to succeed Mother Teresa as its leader.

1997-07-25 – K.R. Narayanan is sworn-in as India's 10th president and the first Dalit— formerly called “untouchable”— to hold this office.

1998-03-24 – A tornado sweeps through Dantan in India killing 250 people and injuring 3000 others.

1998-04-06 – Pakistan tests medium-range missiles capable of hitting India.

1998-05-11 – India conducts three underground nuclear tests in Pokhran, including a thermonuclear device.

1998-05-13 – India carries out two nuclear tests at Pokhran, in addition to the three conducted on May 11. The United States and Japan impose economic sanctions on India.

1998-05-28 – Nuclear testing: Pakistan responds to a series of Indian nuclear tests with five of its own, prompting the United States, Japan, and other nations to impose economic sanctions.

1999-01-22 – Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons are burned alive by radical Hindus while sleeping in their car in Eastern India.

1999-03-11 – Infosys becomes the first Indian company listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange.

1999-04-08 – Haryana Gana Parishad, a political party in the Indian state of Haryana, merges with the Indian National Congress.

1999-08-11 – Total solar eclipse in India-North -France (2m23s)

2000-02-15 – Indian Point II nuclear power plant in New York State vents a small amount of radioactive steam when a steam generator fails.

2000-11-15 – A chartered Antonov AN-24 crashes after takeoff from Luanda, Angola killing more than 40 people. New Jharkhand state came into existence in India.

2001-01-26 – An earthquake hits Gujarat, India, causing more than 20,000 deaths.

2001-06-18 – Protests occur in Manipur over the extension of the ceasefire between Naga insurgents and the government of India.

2001-09-21 – University of Roorkee, becomes India's 7th Indian Institute of Technology, rechristened as IIT Roorkee

2001-12-13 – the Indian Parliament Sansad is attacked by terrorists. 15 people are killed, including all the terrorists.

2002-05-03 – A military MiG-21 aircraft crashes into the Bank of Rajasthan in India, killing eight.

2003-06-05 – A severe heat wave across Pakistan and India reaches its peak, as temperatures exceed 50°C (122°F) in the region.

2003-10-17 – Eunuchs in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh float the political party Jiti Jitayi Politics.

2003-11-18 – The congress of the Communist Party of Indian Union (Marxist-Leninist) decides to merge the party into Kanu Sanyal's CPI(ML).

2004-03-23 – Andhra Pradesh Federation of Trade Unions holds its first conference in Hyderabad, India.

2004-06-06 – Tamil is established as a Classical language by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in a joint sitting of the two houses of the Indian Parliament.

2004-09-17 – Tamil is declared the first classical language in India.

2004-09-21 – The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) People's War and the Maoist Communist Centre of India merge to form the Communist Party of India (Maoist).

2005-01-25 – A stampede at the Mandher Devi temple in Mandhradevi in India kills at least 258.

2005-07-26 – Mumbai, India receives 99.5cm of rain (39.17 inches) within 24 hours, bringing the city to a halt for over 2 days.

2006-07-06 – The Nathula Pass between India and China, sealed during the Sino-Indian War, re-opens for trade after 44 years.

2006-07-11 – 209 people are killed in a series of bomb attacks in Mumbai, India.

2007-07-25 – Pratibha Patil is sworn in as India's first woman president

2008-10-22 – India launches its first unmanned lunar mission Chandrayaan-1.

2008-11-26 – Terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India: Ten coordinated attacks by Pakistan-based terrorists kill 164 and injure more than 250 people in Mumbai, India.

2010-02-13 – A bombing at the German Bakery in Pune, India, kills 10 and injures 60 more.

Important Events in Indian History

BC

3000-1500 Indus Valley Civilisation
576 Birth of Gautam Buddha
527 Birth of Mahavir
327-326 Alexander's invasion of India. It opened a land route between India and Europe
313 Accession of Chandragupta Maurya according to Jain traditions
305 Defeat of Seleucus at the hands of Chandragupta Maurya
273-232 Ashoka's reign
261 Conquest of Kalinga
145-101 Region of Elara, the Chola King of Sri Lanka
58 Beginning of Vikrami era

AD

78 Beginning of Saka era
120 Accession of Kanishka
320 Commencement of Gupta era. the golden age of Hindu India
380 Accession of Vikramaditya
405-411 Visit of Chinese traveller Fa-hien
415 Accession of Kumara Gupta I
455 Accession of Skando Gupta
606-647 Harshavardhan's reign
712 First invasion in Sind by Arabs
836 Accession of King Bhoja of Kannauj
985 Accession of Rajaraja, the Chola ruler
998 Accession of Sultan Mahmud
1001 First invasion of India by Mahmud Ghazni who defeated Jaipal, ruler of Punjab
1025 Destruction of Somnath Temple by Mahmud Ghazni
1191 First Battle of Tarain
1192 Second Battle of Tarain
1206 Accession of Qutab-ud-din Aibak to the throne of Delhi
1210 Death of Qutub-ud-din Aibak
1221 Chagatai Khan invaded India (Mongol invasion)
1236 Accession of Razia Sultan to the throne of Delhi
1240 Razia Sultan dies
1296 Accession of Ala-ud-din Khilji
1316 Ala-ud-din Khilji dies
1325 Accession of Muhammad-bin Tughlaq
1327 Shifting of Capital from Delhi to Daulatabad to Deccan by the Tughlaqs
1336 Foundation of Vijayanagar empire in the South
1351 Accession of Feroze Shah
1398 Invasion of India by Timur Lang
1469 Birth of Gurunank

1494 Accession of Babar in Farghana
1497-98 First voyage of Vasco da Gama to India(discovery of sea route to India via the Cape of Good Hope)
1526 First Battle of Panipat, Babar defeated Ibrahim Lodhi; Foundation of Mughal rule by Babar
1527 Battle of Khanya' Babar defeated Rana Sanga
1530 Death of Babar and accession of Humayun
1539 Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayan and became India's emperor
1540 Battle of Kannauj
1555 Humayan recaptured the throne of Delhi
1556 Second Battle of Panipat
1565 Battle of Talikota
1576 Battle of Haldighati; Rana Pratap defeated by Akbar
1582 Din-e-Illahi founded by Akbar
1597 Death of Rana Pratap
1600 East India Company established
1605 Death of Akbar and accession of Jehangir
1606 Execution of Guru Arjun Dev
1611 Jehangir marries Nur jahan.
1616 Sir Thomas Roe visits Jehangir
1627 Birth of Shivaji and death of Jehangir
1628 Shahjahan becomes emperor of India
1631 Death of Mumtaj Mahal
1634 The British permitted to trade in india in Bengal
1659 Accession of Aurangzeb, Shahjahan imprisoned
1665 Shivaji imprisoned by Aurangzeb
1666 Death of Shahjahan
1675 Execution of Teg Bahadur,the ninth Guru of Sikhs
1680 Death of Shivaji
1707 Death of Aurangzeb
1708 Death of Guru Gobind Singh
1739 Nadir Shah invades India
1757 Battle of Plassey, establishment of Britishn political rule in India at the hands of Lord Clive.
1761 Third Battle of Panipat;Shah Alam II becomes India's emperor
1764 Battle of Buxar
1765 Clive appointed Company's Governor in India
1767-69 First Mysore war
1770 The great Bangal Famine
1780 Birth of Maharaja Ranjit Singh
1780-84 Second Mysore War
1784 Pitt's Omdoa Act
1790-92 Third Mysore War
1793 The Permanent Settlement of Bengal
1799 Fourth Mysore War- Death of Tipu Sultan
1802 Treaty of Bassein
1809 Treaty of Amritsar
1829 Practice of Sati Prohibited
1830 Raja-Ram Mohun Roy, founder of Brahmo Samaj,visits England.
1833 Death of Raja Ram Mohun Roy.

1839 Death of Maharaj Ranjit Singh
 1839-42 First Afghan War
 1845-46 First Anglo-Sikh War
 1852 Second Anglo-Burmese War
 1853 First Railway line opened between Bombay and Thane and a Telegraph line in Calcutta
 1857 The sepoy Mutiny or First War of Independence
 1861 Birth of Rabindranath Tagore
 1869 Birth of Mahatma Gandhi
 1885 Foundation of Indian National Congress
 1889 Birth of Jawaharlal Nehru
 1897 Birth of Subhash Chandra Bose
 1904 Tibet Expedition
 1905 First partition of Bengal under Lord Curzon
 1906 Foundation of Muslim League
 1911 Delhi Darbar; King and Queen visit India; Delhi becomes the capital of India
 1916 World War 1 begins
 1916 Lucknow Pact signed by Muslim League and Congress
 1918 World War 1 ends
 1919 Montague-Chelmsford Reforms introduced, Jallianwala Bagh massacre at Amritsar
 1920 Khilafat Movement launched
 1927 Boycott of Simon Commission, broadcasting started in India
 1928 Death of Lal Lajpat Rai (Sher-e-Punjab)
 1929 Lord Irwin's Pact, resolution of complete independence passed at Lahore Congress
 1930 Civil Disobedience Movement launched; Dandi March by Mahatma Gandhi (April 6, 1930)
 1931 Gandhi-Irwin Pact
 1935 Government of India Act enacted
 1937 Provincial Autonomy, Congress forms ministers
 1939 World War II begins (September 1)
 1941 Death of Rabindranath Tagore, escape of Subhash Chandra Bose from India
 1942 Arrival of Cripps Mission in India, 'Quit India' movement launched (Aug. 8)
 1943-44 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose forms provincial Azad Hind Government and Indian National Army, Bengal famine
 1945 Trial of Indian National Army at Red Fort; Shimla Conference World War II ends
 1946 British Cabinet Mission visits India; Interim Government formed at the Centre,
 1947 Division of India; India and Pakistan form separate independent dominions
 1948 Mahatma Gandhi assassinated (Jan. 30); integration of princely states.
 1949 Cease-fire in Kashmir, Indian Constitution signed and adopted (Nov. 26)
 1950 India becomes a Sovereign Democratic Republic (Jan. 26) and Constitution of India comes into force
 1951 First Five-year Plan. First Asian Games held in Delhi
 1952 First General Elections of the Lok Sabha
 1953 Conquest of Mt. Everest by Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary
 1956 Second Five-Year Plan launched
 1957 Second General Elections; decimal coinage introduced, Liberation of Goa.
 1962 Third General Elections in India; Chinese attack on India (Dec 20)
 1963 Nagaland becomes the 16th Indian State
 1964 Death of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

1965 Pakistan attacks India
 1966 Tashkent Pact; Death of Lal Bahadur Shastri; Mrs. Indira Gandhi elected Prime Minister of India.
 1967 Fourth General Elections; Dr Zakir Hussain elected the third president of India
 1969 V.V. Giri elected President of India, Nationalisation of the leading banks by Presidential ordinance.
 1970 Meghalaya designated as autonomous state.
 1971 Himachal Pradesh becomes a State; Indo-Pak War, Bangladesh is born
 1972 Shimla agreement; Death of C. Rajagopalachari
 1973 Mysore State renamed Karnataka
 1974 India explodes a nuclear device; Fakhuruddin Ali Ahmed elected as fifth President Sikkim becomes an associate State of India
 1975 India launches 'Aryabhata'; Sikkim becomes 22nd State of the Indian Union; State of Emergency is declared
 1976 India and China establish diplomatic relations
 1977 Sixth General Elections; Janata Party gets majority in Lok Sabha; Neelam Sanjiva Reddy elected sixth President of India
 1979 Morarji Desai resigns as Prime Minister, Charan Singh becomes Prime Minister; Charan Singh resigns (Aug 20) Sixth Lok Sabha dissolved
 1980 Seventh General Elections; Congress I comes to power; Mrs Indira Gandhi sworn in as Prime Minister; Sanjay Gandhi dies in an air crash, India Launches SLV-3 into space carrying Rohini Satellite
 1982 Longest bridge in Asia opened (March 2); Acharya J.B. Kripalani dies (March 19) INSAT.1A launched; Giani Zail Singh elected President of India (July 15) Over 500 persons killed in Gujarat Cyclone (Nov.5); Acharua Vinobha dies (Nov 15) IX Asian Games inaugurated (Nov 19)
 1983 CHOGM held in New Delhi
 1984 Operation Blue Star in Punjab; Rakesh Sharma goes into space; Mrs. Indira Gandhi assassinated; Rajiv Gandhi becomes PM
 1985 Rajiv-Longowal accord signed; Sant H.S. Longowal killed elections in Punjab; Assam accord; VII Five-Year Plan launched 1986 Mizoram accord.
 1987 R. Venkataraman elected President; Shankar Dayal Sharma elected Vice-President of India, Bofors gun and Fairfax controversies
 1989 Ram Shilanyas Puja at Ayodhya; India's first IRBM 'Agni' successfully launched from Orissa (May 22); Trishul Missile test fired (June 5); Second successful launch of Prithvi (Sept 27); Rajiv Government loses poll and resigns (Nov.29); Jawahar Rozgar Yojna launched (Nov.29); National front leader V.P. Singh sworn in as seventh PM, New cabinet sworn in (Dec.2), Ninth Lok Sabha constituted
 1990 Last of IPKF return home (March 25); Indian Airlines A-320 Airbus Crash (Feb. 14); Janata Dal splits; BJP withdraws support to the Government; Advani takes out Rath Yatra and is arrested, Mandal Report implemented announced by V.P. Singh Violence in Ayodhya due to Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute
 1991 Gulf War breaks out (Jan. 17); Rajiv Gandhi assassinated (May 21); X Lok Sabha constituted (June 20); P. V. Narasimha Rao becomes Prime Minister
 1992 India establishes full diplomatic ties with Israel (Jan. 29); Bharat Ratna and Oscar winner Satyajit Ray dies (April 23); S.D. Sharma elected President (July 25); INS Shakti-first indigenously built submarine was launched on Feb. 7
 1993 Ordinance to acquire 67.33 acres in Ayodhya (Jan 7); Massive security falls in BJP rally; Wave of bombing leaves 300 dead in Bombay; Insat-2B becomes fully operational; Earthquake in

Maharashtra

1994 Government monopoly over civil aviation ends; Storm over GATT treaty; Plague outbreak; Sushmita Sen-Miss Universe; Aishwarya Rai-Miss World

1995 Mayawati First Dalit Chief Minister of UP; BJP comes to power in Maharashtra and Gujarat, Janata Dal in Karnataka and Congress in Orissa; Indian National Congress (T) formed; President's Rule in UP after fall of Mayawati; INSAT 2C and IRSI-C launched

1996 Hawala takes toll of several Union Ministers and opposition leaders; PSLV D3 launched on March 21 with IRSP-3 ushering new era in India space programme; Eleventh Lok Sabha Elections held on April 127-BJP emerges as the single largest party

1997 On August 15, India celebrated its 50th year of Independence

1998 Death of Mother Teresa; Atal Behari Vajpayee becomes Indian Prime Minister; India explodes its second nuclear device (Pokhran II)

1999 India Airlines plane IC-814 hijacked by terrorists and taken to Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Dec 24, 1999. Three militants released by Indian govt. for the freedom of hostages kept as passengers. In June 1999, Flt. Lt. K. Nachiketa, the captured Indian pilot, released by Pakistan after eight days of captivity. 'Operation Vijay' launched by Indian Army to flush out Pakistani infiltrators inside LoC in the Kargil sector of J&K, India wins battle.

2000 US President Bill Clinton visits India during March 2000. Three new states Chhatisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand created. India's population crossed one billion mark.

2001 'Agra Summit' between India and Pakistan in July 2001; Worst natural calamity of India: Gujarat Earthquake in Jan 2001; 'Tehelka.Com' screened video tapes which opened the murky world of arms deal and its kickbacks to Indian Army officials, ministers and politicians in March 2001; VI th census of India (since Independence) concluded in March 2001. Enron bids farewell to Indian energy sector in August 2001; GSLV

launched successfully in April 2001 and PSLC-C3 launch conducted in October 2001.

2002 71-year old missile scientist, Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, is elected President of India; One of the most horrific communal riots in recent history, the Godhra Incident, happens on Feb 27, 2002 in Gujarat; National Water Policy announced in April, which aims at integrating water resources development and management for optimal and sustainable utilisation.

2003 Formation of Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) by India; Air Marshal Teja Mohan Asthana named first commander in chief of the SFC; Advanced multi purpose satellite, INSAT-3A is successfully launched into space from Kourou of French Guyana; CBI forms an Economic Intelligence Wing to tackle white-collar crime in June; India's advanced communication satellite INSAT-3E is launched by an European rocket from the spaceport of Kourou of French Guyana in December

2004 NDA government ousted by the Congress and its allies in the General Election; Congress President Ms Sonia Gandhi opts against becoming Prime Minister of India despite being in a strong position; Congress and its allies forms government at the centre under the Prime Ministership of Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Important Facts of Indian History

History of Ancient India

- The Harappan Fort in the shape of a parallel square is 460 yards in length (north-south) 215 yards in breadth (east-west) and 15-17 yards in height.
- The script of Indus civilization was pictorial in which there were more than 600 picture-letters and 60 original letters.
- The excavations of Chanhudaro were carried out in 1925 under the leadership of Earnest M'ckay. This town had no fort.
- Naal, Daburkot, Rakhi Garhi, Banawali, Rangpur, Lothal, Des Morasi, Kulli, Rana Ghundai, Anjira, Gumla, Amri, Ghundai, Mundigak, Diplabaga, Sahar-i-Sokhta, Bampur and Queta etc. are famous historical sites where the remains of Indus civilization and pre Indus civilization have been excavated.
- Daburkot, Periano, Ghundai, Kulli, Mehi, Chanhudaro, Amri, Lohumjodaro, Alimurad, Ropar, Rangpur, Sutkegender are the prominent (spots) places of Indus Valley civilization.
- The excavations of Kalibangan, a historical place in Rajasthan began in 1961 under the direction of B. K. Thapar and B. B. Lal. From the lower layer of the excavation, the remains of pre Indus civilization and from the upper layer of the Indus civilization are discernible. The fortress and the city both were surrounded with walls.
- The excavations at Rangpur—an Indus site in Gujarat were carried out in 1953-54 under the leadership of Rangnath Rao. Forts of raw bricks, drainage, terrecota utensils, weights and slabs of stone have been found but the idol of mother Goddess (Matridevi) and coins have not been found.
- Lothal was situated at that time near the ocean. In excavations the remains of a dockyard have been found which testify to the trade relations of Indus people with western Asia.
- In the district of Kutchh in Gujarat state, 12 kms north-east of Adesar is situated Surkotda which was explored and excavated in 1964 under the guidance of Jagatpati Joshi.
- In the excavation of Indus civilization, a very big building has been explored. It is 242 long and 112 ft broad. The walls are 5 ft thick.
- Some figurines on tables have been found in Indus civilization in the centre of which is a round shaped Sun and around it are the pictures of 6 gods arranged in a way that they appear as if they are the Sun beams. This testifies to the worship of Sun in the period.
- The proof of the existence of a Man-like being are 1 crore to 20 lacs years old.
- In the Indian population, there are four basic racial sub-difference. These are Negrito, Astro Australians, Kakeshisi and Mongoloids.
- In India, skeletons (human body in bones-kankal) have been found in Sarai Nahar Rai near Allahabad, Bataikhor and Lekhanua. High in length, flat nose and broad mouth are their characteristics. These belong to Mesolithic age.
- The pre stone civiliation came to be knwon in the region of river Sohan a subsidiary of Sindhu. Hence it is called Sohan civilization. The Vatikapoom in the form of (Gandasa) axe and Khandak were its main implements.
- In Harappan culture, the worship of Earth as goddess was in vogue. This is indicated by the idol of a woman with a plant growing out of her womb.
- Along with the Elephants, Rhinoceros, Buffalos, Lions and eers, the picture of Yogi engraved on a seal (Muhar) suggests the worship of Shiva in Harappan civilization. This god had three heads and he sat with crossed legs.
- The Talismans obtained in large numbers indicate that the people of Harappan culture

believed in witchcraft or the dead souls. These talismans were made of bronze and copper in the form of plate.

- In Harappan culture the weight (for measuring) were 16 or of its multiplied numbers.
- The dogs and cats were the domesticated animals and their foot prints confirm this fact.
- The remains of the horses have been found at Surkotda. The existence of the horse is not known from the upper layer of Mohanjodaro excavation. The terrecota small figurines provide knowledge about it.
- The people of Lothal used rice in 1800 B.C.
- As Sindh was one of the oldest region for cultivating cotton, the Greeks named it as Sedon.
- In Harappan culture, silver was obtained from Afghanistan, Iran, South India, Arabia and Baluchistan. Gold was imported from Afghanistan and Persia.
- The stone Lajward was brought from Badakshan, Feroza was brought from Iran. Jayumani was brought from Maharashtra, Moonga and redstone were brought from Saurashtra and Western India and the precious greenstone (Panna) was brought from Central Asia.
- The Ahar culture (Rajasthan) belonged to the Copper age. The houses were built of stone and a mixture of lime and soil. Paddy was cultivated and Metal Work in Bronze were in vogue. All these were the characteristics of this culture which existed about 2000 B.C.
- The remains of Malwa stone and Bronze culture have been found in Navdatoli where the houses were built of mud, bamboo and dry grass in a square and round shape. The terrecota utensils and agricultural products of wheat, oil seeds, pulses (Masur) and green and black gram are the characteristics of this culture.
- The Rishis (Sages) like Gritsamad, Vishwamitra, Bhardwaj, Atri and Vashishta composed the Suktas or the Vedic Mantras.
- The prominent female sages were Lopamudra, Ghosa, Shachi and Poulomi.
- Sam Ved is divided into three branches—(1) Kouthum, (2) Ranayaniya, (3) Jaminiya.
- Prominent among the Ayurvedacharyas were Acharya Ashwini Kumar, Dhanvantari, Banabhatt, Sushrut, Madhav, Jeevan and Lolimbaraja etc.
- Ayur Ved is an 'Upaved' of Rig Ved, Dhanur Ved is 'Upaved' of Yajur Ved, Gandharva Ved is the 'Upaved' of Sam Ved and Shilpa Ved is the 'Upaved' of Atharva Ved.
- Rig Ved has two Brahman—(1) Aitereya, (2) Kaushitaki.
- Krishna Yajur Ved has the Brahman—Taittiriya and Shukla Yajur Ved has the Shatpath Brahman.
- The Brahman of Sam Ved are Tandav, Panchvish, Sadvish and Chhandogya.
- The Aranyakas deal with life, death and other serious themes. These are written and studied in loneliness of the forests.
- Aitereya and Kaushitaki are the Aranyakas of Rig Ved. The author of Aitereya was Mahidas Aitereya.
- Taittiriya Aranyaka belongs to Krishna Yajur Veda.
- Sam Ved and Atharav Ved have no Aranyakas.
- Prominent among the Upanishads are Ish, Ken, Kath, Prashn, Mundak, Mandukya, Taittiriya, Aitereya, Chhandogya, Vrihadaranyak, Shwetashwara, Kaushitaki and Mahanarayana.
- During the Rigvedic period Nishk was an ornament for the neck; Karnashobhan was an ornament for the ear and Kumbh was the ornament for the head.
- In the Rigvedic age, the Aryans domesticated the cow, the buffalo, goat (ajaa), horse, elephant and camel etc.
- Bheeshaj was the person who treated the sick people.
- The Rigvedic Aryans worshipped the Sun as Savita, Mitra, Pooshan and Vishnu. Sun was called the 'Eye of Gods'; and Agni the 'Mouth of Gods'. Agni was considered to be the Purohit of the

Aryans. They thought that the offering of the Yajna reaches to the gods through Agni. Varun was worshipped as a spatial god.

- In Rig Veda, Usha, Sita, Prithvi, Aranyani, Ratri, Vak are worshipped as goddesses.
- Besides Rig Ved, the reference of Sita as the goddess of agriculture is made in Gomil Grihya Sutra and Paraskar Grihya Sutra.
- The ancient idols of Ganesh show his main weapons as Paash and Ankush.
- In the Rigvedic age the traders were called 'Pani'. They stole away the cattle of the Aryans.
- Das' or Dasyas were more hated than the 'Pani'. They have been referred as black complexioned inauspicious and opposed to Yajnas. They were the worshippers of Phallus (Shishnadev).
- In the Rigvedic age, the cow was the backbone of economy. It was called 'Aghanya'—not to be killed, war has been referred as Gavisthi, the guest as Mohan and the daughter as Duhiti. One Rik refers to the domestication of sheep.
- Vashishtha who replaced Vishwamitra as Purohit of King Sudas, has been mentioned as adopted son of Urvashi, and born of the 'Virya' of Mitra and Varun on an earthen pot.
- Ballabh and Tarukshadas were chieftains who lavishly donated to the Purohites and through their grace obtained respect and high place in the Aryan society.
- Savitri is referred in the famous Gayatri Mantra. In Rig Ved the maximum reference is made of Indra. After him Varun is referred to. In the earlier Richas Varun and Marut have been mentioned as 'Gan'. Twasta also was a Vedic God.
- Prajapati has been referred as the Adi Purush—the first human (male). The gods were his children.
- In Rig Ved, the king has been mentioned as the Protector of the clan or the Gopta Janasya. The reference to Sabha, Samiti, Gan, Vidath is made as the Tribal Councils.
- No bureaucracy developed in Rigvedic age. Yet the officer of Gochar land were called Vrajpati, the officer of the village was called Gramani. He was the commander. The chief of the family is referred as 'Kulap'.
- The words like Vrat, Gan, Gram and Shardh have also been used for indicating the group of Soldiers.
- In Rig Ved Jan is used 275 times, Vish is used 170 times. Sangram is the word which indicates war between the villages.
- The God of Vegetation. It was also an intoxicating drink and the method of its preparation is referred in the Rig Ved.
- The later Vedic literature was written during 1100 to 600 B.C. The painted grey ware—bowls and plates were used and the tools which they used were made of iron.
- The main crop of the later Vedic age was wheat and paddy instead of barley.
- In the later Vedic age, the Vidath were extinct but the Sabha and the Samiti existed.
- In this period, the King performed the rites of Rajsuya Yajna with a desire to obtain divine power, Ashwamedha Yajna to expand the empire and the Vajpeya Yajna for chariot racing with friends and relatives of his Gotra.
- The Gotra system began in the later Vedic age. The custom of marrying outside the Gotra also started.
- In the literature of later Vedic age, the first three Ashrams are mentioned—(1) Brahmcharya, (2) Grihastha, (3) Banprastha. The Sanyas Ashram is not mentioned.
- In later Vedic period the plant Som could not be obtained easily. As such other drinks were also used.
- Gold and Silver were mainly used for making ornaments and utensils. Other metals were used for making many other implements in the later Vedic era.

- In later Vedic period, the commercial classes (Traders) organized themselves in 'Sangh'. The Aryans conducted sea trade. Nisk, Satman and Krishal were used as coins for trade purposes.
- In comparison to the religion of Rigvedic period, the later Vedic religion had become very complex. Purohiths, Yajna and sacrifice were considered important. Many types of Yajnas were performed.
- The Shatpath Brahman refers to the various steps in progress of cultivation—Jutai (ploughing), Buwai (planting), Lawani (weaning), Mandai (cutting) are the various processes mentioned in it.
- Sangam literature is compiled in 8 books. They are—(1) Narune, (2) Kuruntoge, (3) Aigunuru, (4) Padirupputtu, (5) Paripadal, (6) Karlittorga, (7) Nedultoge, (8) Purnanuru.
- In the Sangam age, the Tamil Grammar was written in a detailed book, 'Tolakappiyam'.
- With the songs of the musicians, the dancers known as Panar and Widelier used to dance.
- Pedinekkilanku is a famous composition of Sangam literature.
- Sangam is a Sanskrit word meaning a Congregation and a Council.
- The main theme of the Sangam literature is 'Romance' (Shringar) and heroism (Veergatha). Shringar is called as 'Aham' and Veergatha has been called as 'Puram'.
- The first Sangam was organized at Madurai under the chairmanship of Rishi Agastya.
- The second Sangam was organized at Kapatpuram again under the chairmanship of Rishi Agastya.
- The third Sangam was organized at Madurai and it was chaired by 'Nakkirar'.
- Avey was the family of Sangam age which meant Sabha (assembly).
- Panchvaram was the assembly of the advisors of the King of Sangam age.
- Ur was the institution which looked after the city administration.
- The excavation of Arikmedu, provide enough evidence to prove that once upon a time, the cantonments of the Roman traders resided there.
- The teachers in the Sangam age were called as Kanakkaters.
- The students in the Sangam age were called Bhanwan or Pillai.
- Parshvanath arranged for fourfold vows (Chaturvrata) for the Bhikshus (monks)—(1) I shall not kill the living beings, (2) I shall always speak the truth, (3) I shall not steal, (4) I shall not keep any property.
- Mahavir Swami has been called Nigashtha, Naatputra and Nirgranth Saatputra.
- Mahavir Swami left his mortal frame and attained Nirvana at Pawapur near Patna in Bihar.
- The Triratna in Jainism are described as Samyak Shraddha (veneration), Samyak Gyan (knowledge) and Samyak Acharana (conduct).
- According to Jainism, Nirvana (redemption) to free the soul from the physical bondage.
- Mahavir Swami has described five vows for the common people which are called as Panchmaha-vrat. These are—Truth, Non-violence, No stealing, No collection of wealth or anything and celibacy (Satya, Ahimsa, Asteya, Aparigraha and Brahmacharya). To these was later added, 'Not to eat at Night'.
- Kaivalya is total knowledge which the Nirgranth get.
- Buddha was born in the Lumbini forest, 14 km beyond Kapilvastu in Nepal Tarai.
- Kaundinya, a Brahmin astrologer, was contemporary of Buddha.
- Gautam obtained knowledge at Gaya. Hence the place is called Bodh Gaya.
- The first sermon of Buddha is known as 'Dharma Chakra Pravartan'.
- Mahatma Buddha delivered his first sermon at Rishipatan (Sarnath).
- The followers of Buddha were divided into four sections—(1) Bhikshu or the monks, (2) Bhikshuni or lady monks, (3) Upasaks or devotees, (4) Upasikas or lady devotees.
- After delivering his teachings for constant 45 years, Mahatma Buddha attained Mahaparinirvan at the age of 80 at Kushinara (Kushinagar).

- Tripitaks are—(1) Vinay Pitak, (2) Suttapitak, (3) Abhidhamma Pitak.
- Vinay Pitak is divided into sections—(1) Sutta Vibhag, (2) Khandhak, (3) Pariwar.
- Suttapitak contains—Diggh Nikay, Majjhim Nikay, Anguttar Nikay and Khuddak Nikay.
- In Abhidhamma Pitak, philosophical and spiritual thoughts are contained.
- There are seven treatises of Abhidhamma Pitak —(1) Dhamma Sangeeti, (2) Vibhang, (3) Dhatu Katha, (4) Puggal Panjati, (5) Katha Vastu, (6) Yamak, (7) Patthan.
- The eight fold paths are—(1) Right belief, (2) Right thought, (3) Right speech, (4) Right action, (5) Right means of livelihood, (6) Right execution, (7) Right remembrance, (8) Right meditation.
- In Buddhism, the Astangikmarg (eight fold path) is classified as—(1) Praja Skandh, (2) Sheel Skandh, (3) Samadhi Skandh.
- Under Praja Skandh come—Samyak Drishti, Samyak Sankalp and Samyak Vani (speech).
- Under Sheel Skandh come—Samyak Karmant, Samyak Aajeev.
- Under Samadhi Skandh come—Samyak Vyayam, Samyak Smriti and Samyak Samadhi.
- Mahatma Buddha was silent on the existence of God or otherwise but he did not believe in the existence of soul.
- The first Buddhist Council was convened a few years after Buddha's death under the chairmanship of Mahakassap in Saptaparna caves near Rajgrih.
- The second Buddhist Council was organized at Vaisali.
- The third Buddhist Council was convened at Patliputra during the regime of Asoka.
- The fourth Buddhist Council was convened at Kashmir during the regime of Kanishka.
- Purans are said to be 18 in number of which Bhagwat Puran is very renowned.
- Bhagwatism is mentioned for the first time in the Bhishm Parva of Mahabarat.
- The Dravida Vaishnav devotees are known as the Alvars.
- A Brahman named Kautilya or Chanakya played a significant role in the establishment of the Mauryan empire.
- In the Greek writings, Chandra Gupta Maurya is called Sandrocottus.
- Arian and Plutarch have called him Androcottus.
- In the Mudra Rakshas written by Vishakhadutta, Chandra Gupta Maurya is called Chandragiri Chandrashree.
- In Buddhist literature, Mahavansh Tika is the book which throws ample light on the life of Chandra Gupta Maurya.
- 'Indika' was written by Megasthenes.
- In the book Mahavansh, Chandra Gupta Maurya is said to be Kshatriya by caste.
- After being defeated in war with Chandra Gupta, Seleukos offered him Gadrosia (Baluchistan), Acrosia (Kandahar), Aria (Herat) and a part of Hindukush.
- Sudarshan Lake at Junagarh was built by Chandra Gupta Maurya.
- The Mahasthan inscription points out Chandra Gupta's ascendancy over Bengal.
- The Rudradaman inscription of Girnar testifies to the suzerainty of Chandra Gupta over Saurashtra.
- According to Jain Texts, Chandra Gupta in the last years of his life, accepted Jainism and went to Mysore with the Jain monk Bhadrabahu.
- The empire of Chandra Gupta spread from Himalaya in the north to Mysore in the south; and from Bengal in the east to Baluchistan in the west. It covered Punjab, Sindh, Kashmir, Doab of Ganga and Yamuna, Magadh, Bengal, Malwa, Saurashtra and the region of Mysore.
- The administrative system of Chandra Gupta Maurya was Monarchy. In order to administer well, Chandra Gupta Maurya appointed a Council of Ministers.
- In the Mauryan age, the officer who collected the trade taxes was called Shulkadhyaksha.
- The Chairman of the Government services was known as Sutradhyaksha in the Mauryan age.

- The officer-in-charge of Weight and Measures was known as Peetadhyaksha in the Mauryan age.
- In Mauryan age, the officer who controlled the manufacture of wine, its sale and purchase and its consumption was Suradhyaksha.
- The chairman of the agricultural department was called Seetadhyaksha in Mauryan age.
- There were many officers such as Ganikadhyaksha, `Mudradhyaksha, Navadhyaksha, Ashwadhyaksha and Devtadhyaksha etc. in the Mauryan Age.
- The officer who kept the details of total income and expenditure of the State and decided the economic policy was called Sannidhata. Under him, worked officers like Treasurer and Shulkadhyaksha.
- In Mauryan age, the minister of factories and mines was called Karmantirak. His main task was to excavate different metals from the mines and look after the factories.
- In Mauryan age the Amatya of Fauzdari (Criminal) Court was called Pradeshta.
- The Amatya of the Civil Court was known as Vyavaharik.
- The Greek scholars have described the Amatyas as the seventh caste.
- The successor of Chandra Gupta Maurya is called name Bindusara in majority of the Puranas. Ceylonese works, Buddhist texts and in Deepvansh and Mahavansh. In Vayu Puran, his name is given as Bhadrasaar. In some of the Purans he is called as Varisaar. In the Chinese text—Fa-Uen-Chu-Lin, he is called as Bindupal. In another book Rajabalikatha, the successor and son of Chandra Gupta is called as Sinhasen.
- Ptolemy, the ruler of Egypt sent Dioniyas as his ambassador to the Court of Bindusaar.
- In Chandra Gupta Maurya's time, the chief of the city was called Nagaradhyaksha who worked like the modern District Magistrate.
- The smallest unit of the administration was the village. Its chief officer was called Gramik or Gramani.
- Gramani was elected by the people of the village.
- In every village, there was an officer who was called Gram Bhojak.
- In the administration of Chandra Gupta Maurya the department of espionage was well organized. According to Kautilya, there were two sections of the secret service—(1) Sansthan, (2) Sancharan.
- In the inscriptions, Asoka is called evanampriya and Priyadarshi.
- The Ceylonese sources and Deepvansh, call him, Priyadarshan and Priyadarshi. Scholars think that these were his titles.
- Asoka appointed an officer called Mahamatras in every city and district.
- In the 1st year of his reign, he appointed harma Mahamatra and harmayukta for the first time for the happiness and peace of his people.
- Upagupta was a Buddhist monk of Mathura under his influence, Asoka changed his religion and accepted Buddhism.
- Asoka sent his daughter Sanghamitra and son Mahendra to spread Buddhism in Sri Lanka.
- In the minor edicts Asoka calls himself a Buddha Shakya.
- Asoka sent Majjhantika to propagate Buddhism in Kashmir.
- In 1870, it was Telford who first explored the Asokan pillars.
- Asoka's last edict was found by Beadon in 1915 at Maski.
- The small edicts of Asoka are of two types. According to Smith, they were written in 259-232 B.C.
- The first kind of Asokan small pillar edicts are available at Roopnath in Jabalpur district, Sahasaram in Shahabad district of Bihar, Maski, in Raichoor district, and Vairat in Rajasthan.
- The second type of Asokan edicts have been found at Siddhpur (Chitralahug, Mysore) Jagat,

Rameshwar and Brahmagiri.

- The Bhabru edict was found at Bairath near Jaipur in Rajasthan. In this edict seven precepts of Buddhism have been given which Asoka liked most and he desired that the people should read them and make their conduct accordingly. This edict is preserved in Kolkata Museum.
- Two edicts about Kalinga have been found at Dhauri and Jaugarh. In these, the principles of behaviour with the people of Kalinga and with the frontier people have been outlined.
- Asokan small edicts have been found at about 15 places.
- The Erangudi edict was found in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh at a place known as Erangudi.
- The Maski small edict was found from Maski village of Raichoor district of Andhra Pradesh. It contains the name of Asoka.
- The Rajul Mandgiri edict was found on a mound 20 miles beyond Erangudi in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Gurjara edict has been found from a village named Gurjara in Satpata district of Madhya Pradesh. It also mentions the name of Asoka.
- Ahraura edict was found from a hill of the village Ahraura in Mirzapur district of U.P.
- Palgoraria edict was found in 1975.
- The Sannati inscription (edict) has been found in the village Sannati in the district of Gulbarga of Karnataka State.
- The cave inscriptions are three in number which have been found in the Barabar hills of Gaya city in Bihar. These refer to the charity performed by the King to the Ajivaks.
- The language of the Kandahar edict is Greek and Aramaic.
- The Topara pillar edict has been found from a village named Topara in Haryana. In the course of time Firoz Tughlaq brought it to Delhi where it is kept at Feroz Shah Kotla ground.
- Rumindei small pillar edict was found from the Tarai of Nepal.
- Most of Asokan edicts are written in Prakrit language.
- In Gupta age ships and boats were manufactured in large numbers. Gujarat, Bengal and Tamil Nadu were the main centres of cotton industry.
- Trade between India and China was carried on before Gupta age, in 2nd century.
- India had trade relations with eastern countries. They were called Swarnabhumi (land of gold).
- Peshawar, Bharauch, Ujjaini, Varanasi, Prayag, Patliputra, Mathura, Vaishali and Tamralipti were trade centres.
- In west Bharauch and in east, Tamralipti were prominent ports.
- Gold, silver, bronze, tin, campher, dates and horses were imported.
- The collective unit of the people who worked in various industries, were known as 'Kuliks'.
- 'Kulik Nigam' and 'Shreshthi Nigam' were the unions of wealthy traders. The Kulik Nigam had its own seal which was used in commercial correspondence and the trade-goods.
- In the Gupta age, India maintained trade relations with Arabia. Horses were imported from Arabia and Iran.
- The Seals of Kulik have been excavated from the town Meeta near Allahabad.
- From Vaishali 274 Seals of Sathwah Kulik Nigam have been excavated prove that it was a great institution of the Gupta age.
- Trade with China, Japan and Sumatra was carried from the port of Tamralipti.
- In Gupta age the land tax was known as 'Udrang'.
- Kadur and Charpal were the ports situated in Andhra Pradesh.
- Kaveripattanam and Tondai were the ports of Chola State.
- Kokai and Saliyur were the ports of Pandya State.

- Kodayam and Mujris were the ports of Malwa State.
- Sindhu, Orhoth, Kalyan and Mibor were other main ports for trade.
- Hiranya was the tax realized in cash. Bhutavat Pratyaya was the tax levied upon the imports from other countries.
- Haldand was the tax charged on the ploughed land.
- A definite portion of the produce from agricultural land was charged as the land tax by the State. It was called Bhag tax. Generally it was charged in kind.
- In the Gupta age, the land was donated only to the Brahmans.
- The land donated to Brahmans was called Brahmdeya.
- The tax free villages of the Brahmans were called Agrahara.
- In the Gupta age, the Gram Parishads (village councils) were autonomous and free from the State control.
- The uncultivated land was the property of the king.
- The women who remained unmarried throughout their life and passed their time in studies were called Brahmavadinis.
- Taxila, Varanasi and Ujjaini were prominent centres of education.
- In the Gupta society, intercaste marriages were performed.
- The slave system was practised in the Gupta age.
- The joint family system was in vogue in Gupta society.
- In the women though not as much respected as in Vedic period, yet enjoyed important position in the society of Gupta age.
- Sheelbharika was an educated and worthy woman of the Gupta age.
- Widow remarriages were performed in the Gupta age, But some works of the age speak against it. Chandra Gupta II married the widow of Ramgupta, his brother. Her name was Dhruva Swamini.
- Prostitutes, expert in music and dance, and perfect in sexology were called 'Ganikas'.
- The traders and commercial professionals had their 'Shrenis' in Gupta age. The Patkar, Tailik (oil traders), Pashan Kottak (stone cutters) were important Shrenis.
- The author of 'Swapnavasavaduttam' was an eminent prose writer.
- The author of Bhattikavya or Ravan Vadh, was Bhatti, an eminent poet of Gupta age.
- Bhartahari wrote 'Niti Shatak', Shringar Shatak and Vairagya Shatak which became very famous. Some scholars believe that Bhartahari is another name for Bhatti.
- 'Kuntleshwar Daityam' is a drama that testifies to the fact that Kalidas belonged to the Gupta age.
- 'Abhigyanashakuntalam' 'Meghdoot' 'Ritusanhar' are some of the major works of Kalidas.
- Kamsutra is a famous book on Sexology written by Vatsyayan.
- Vaibhashik and Sanghbhadra were the two Acharyas (teachers) of the Gupta age who wrote the literature of the Vaibhashik sect.

Important Facts of Indian History

History of Medieval India

- Made in the times of Bhoj, an idol of 'Vakdevi' is at present preserved in the British Museum.
- The Jain temples of Dilwara were constructed during the period of Parmars.
- In Udaipur Prashasti, Munj is entitled 'Kavi Vrish' due to his literary attainments.
- Qutubuddin was purchased as a slave in his childhood by Qazi Fakruddin Abdul Aziz Koofi.
- Qutubuddin did not issue coins or got 'Khutba' read in his name after accession to Delhi throne.
- Qutubuddin Aibak was buried at Lahore after his death.
- Iltutmish established the Shamsi dynasty.
- Iltutmish organized the group of his 40 slaves which is famous in history as Turkan-i-Chahalgami.
- Yalduz and Nasiruddin Qubacha were prominent rivals of Iltutmish.
- Iltutmish organized the 'Iqta army'.
- Iltutmish issued the coins—'Taka' of silver and 'Jeetal' of copper.
- Iltutmish was the first Sultan who issued pure Arabic coins.
- On 18th February, 1229, the representatives of the Caliph of Baghdad came to Delhi and they gave the Investiture of the Caliph to Iltutmish. The Caliph thus accepted him as the Sultan of Delhi. Now Delhi became a free state legitimately.
- According to Barni, Balban organized his Court on the Iranian pattern.
- Balban started the system of 'Sijda' and 'Paibos' during his reign.
- Balban's theory of kingship was based upon—Power, Prestige and Justice. His main objective was to maintain his control upon the administrative officials.
- The Mongol leader Chagiz Khan was known as the 'Curse of God'.
- The coronation of Jalaluddin Feroz Shah was done in 1290 at the Kilokhari Apurna Palace built by Kaikubad.
- At the time of his accession on the Delhi Sultanate, Alauddin Khalji assumed the title of Abul Mujaffar Sultan Alauddin and Deen Mohammad Shah Khalji.
- Jalaluddin Feroz Shah Khalji granted to Alauddin Khalji, the post of Amir-i-Tujuk.
- During Alauddin's time approximately 75 to 80 per cent of the peasant's produce was charged as tax.
- The main tasks of Diwan-i-Ariz were to recruit the soldiers, to disburse the salary, to well equip the army, to make arrangements for inspection and to proceed with the Commander-in-Chief in times of war.
- The main tasks of the Diwan-i-Insha was to draft royal orders and letters and to maintain the govt. records. He also conducted correspondence with the local officers.
- Alauddin Khalji introduced market reforms and fixed the prices of various items and goods.
- Munhiyan or detectives were appointed to keep a watch over the market and report the Sultan of the same.
- Barid-i-Mandi was an employee who informed the Sultan of the quality of the material sold in the market.
- 'Khams' was the war booty. The 4/5 of the loot was submitted to the royal treasury. Only 1/5 was distributed among the soldiers.
- Alauddin Khalji established a new department Diwan-i-Mustakharaj in order to check the corruption of Revenue department and to maintain control on the concerned officers.
- Qutubuddin Mubarak Shah rejected the rigid rules of Alauddin Khalji and pursued the policy of

forgive and forget.

- Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq Ghazi was a Qaruna Turk.
- Mohammad Tughlaq has been called, an unfortunate idealist
- Due to shortage of money in the treasury and to meet the expenses of Imperialist policy, Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq issued token currency.
- Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq planned invasion of Khurasan and Iraq but did not carry it out.
- Diwan-i-Kohi was the name of agriculture department organized by Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq.
- Elphinston was the first historian who believed that there was some sign of madness in Mohammad Tughlaq.
- Feroz Shah abolished 24 taxes disliked by people.
- Feroz Shah Tughlaq following dictum of Quran. levied only 4 taxes named Kharaj, Khums, Zazia and Zakat.
- Feroz Shah brought the two Asokan pillars from Khijrabad and Meerut to Delhi.
- During the period of Feroz Shah Tughlaq, the two books Fatwa-i-Jahandari and Tarikh-i-Feroz Shahi were written by Barni.
- Feroz Shah Tughlaq wrote his autobiography entitled Futuhat-i-Firoz Shahi.
- Feroz Shah Tughlaq established a new department of charity at Delhi known as Diwan-i-Khairat.
- Feroz Shah's book 'Dalayat-i-Feroz Shahi' was a work translated into Persian.
- Taimur invaded India in 1398.
- Sikandar Lodhi was the greatest of the Lodhi kings.
- In the Sultanate period, the Wazir was the Prime Minister of the Sultan.
- The department of the Wazir was known as the Diwan-i-Wizarat.
- In the Sultanate period, the Mushrif-i-Mumaliq maintained the account of the income and expenditure of the provinces.
- In the Sultanate period, the Chief Auditor of Accounts was called Mustafa-i-Mamaliq. His main work was to inspect the accounts prepared by Mushraf-i-Mamaliq.
- The Chief of military department was called, Ariz-i-Mamaliq who was not the Commander-in-Chief of the army.
- Dabir-i-Khas was the chairman of the correspondence department.
- Department of Diwan-i-Insha worked under Dabir-i-Khas who issued the royal Firmans (orders).
- The Treasurer was called Khajij and the Chief Justice was called Qazi-i-Mamaliq.
- The Chief of the Construction department was called Mir-i-Imarat.
- The Public Hall of the Sultan was called Durbar-i-Azam.
- The Sultan divided the empire into Iqtas or provinces.
- Iqta was divided into small shiks or districts.
- Zakat was the tax which covered the taxes of 'Sadpa' and 'Tith'.
- Qutubuddin Aibak had built the mosque known as Quwwa ul-Islam near the Delhi Fort of Rai Pithora.
- The famous mosque at Ajmer known as Dhaj Dina Ka Jhopra was constructed by Qutubuddin Aibak.
- Dhaj Dina Ka Jhopra was earlier a Sanskrit school which was built by Vigraharaj Bisaldeo.
- Alai Darwaza which is considered to be the most precious jewel of Islamic architecture was built by Alauddin Khalji.
- The new city of Siri and the Hazaar Situn palace in this city were built by Alauddin Khalji.
- In the period of Sikander Lodhi, his Wazir built the Moth mosque.
- The mosque of Alai is one of the best buildings of Sharqi style.

- The Jhajhanri mosque at Jaunpur was built by Ibrahim Sharqi in about 1430.
- The most important mosque at Jaunpur known as Jami mosque was built by Hussain Shah Sharqi.
- The mosque of Lal Darwaza at Jaunpur, was built in the middle of the 15th century.
- The Vijay Nagar kingdom was divided into 6 provinces. The chief of the province was known as Prantpati or Nayak.
- The province was divided into Nadu or districts.
- The provincial rulers were allowed to issue their coins.
- In the Vijay Nagar empire Brahmins were the most respected. The criminal Brahmin was exempted from capital punishment.
- Women enjoyed honourable status. Many of them learnt the art of warfare. They were appointed as bodyguards.
- Krishnadeo Ray is designated as the Andhra Pitamah.
- Gold coins were used and they were called 'Barah'.
- Mixed metal coins were called Partab.
- Kabir who adopted the Gyanashrayi branch of the Nirgun sect, was the disciple of Ramanand.
- Namdeo was born in a small village of Satara district in 1220.
- Sabad refer to the composition related to Yog Sadhana.
- Guru Nanak was born in a small village Talwandi near Lahor.
- To reform a society ridden with ritualism and superstitious, he preached the Nirguna sect.
- The fifth Sikh Guru Arjundeo systematized the composition of Guru Nanak in 'Guru Granth Sahib'.
- Malik Mohammad Jayasi earned great name and fame for his work Padmavat.
- The first invasion of Babar on India was conducted in 1519. During this invasion, he conquered Bajaur and Bhera. He went back from here. When he left these two places were lost to the Moghuls.
- Babar again invaded India in 1526, for the fifth time and he did not go back this time. He founded the Moghul empire in India.
- He defeated Ibrahim Lodhi by adopting his trusted war tactics of Tulughma.
- Babar used Artillery for the first time in the battle of Panipat.
- Babar defeated Rana Sanga of Mewar in the battle of Khanva in 1527. He scored a victory over Afghans in battle of 'Ghaghara' in 1529.
- Babar declared the Chanderi war as Jihad and he constructed a minaret of the heads of the dead Rajputs.
- Babar wrote his autobiography Tuzuk-i-Babri in Turkish language.
- Mirza Haider Speaks about numerous qualities of Babar in his book—Tarikh-i-Rashidi.
- Babar's daughter Gulbadan Begum enumerated the qualities of Babar in her book, Humayun Nama.
- Babar in his reign abolished the tax Tamagha.
- Babar wrote Risala-i-Validiya in Turkish poetry which was originally the work of Khwaja Obeidullah.
- Babar learnt the use of artillery from Ustad Ali and Mustafa—his two Turkish officers.
- The name of Humayun's mother was Maham Sultana.
- In 1544 Humayun took shelter with Shah Tahmasp, the ruler of Iran.
- In July 1555, Humayun again occupied the throne of Delhi.
- Humayun died on 27 January, 1556 as a result of a sudden fall from the stairs of the Din-Panah Library.
- Shershah was a great conqueror. He fought and won a grim battle against Maldeo of Marwar.

- Shershah introduced currency reform, extended transport system by building, roads, most famous being present day G. T. Road and reformed revenue system by classifying agricultural land and introducing measurement of land.
- During the administration of Shershah, the Diwan-i-Vizarat looked after the tax system and economy and maintained the accounts of the income and expenditure of the State.
- The duty of Diwan-i-Ariz was to recruit the army, supply the food and look after education.
- The duty of Diwan-i-Rasalat was to conduct correspondence with other States and to maintain contact with them.
- The duty of the Diwan-i-Insha was to write emperor's orders and records of accounts.
- The credit to solve the early difficulties of Akbar and to safeguard the Mughal empire goes to Bairam Khan.
- From 1556 to 1560 the reins of Mughal administration remained in the hands of Bairam Khan.
- At Tilwara, a war was fought between Bairam Khan and the army of Akbar. Bairam Khan was defeated.
- In early days of his rule Akbar was under the influence of Harem particularly his foster mother Maham Anga. This is why some historians call the early years of Akbar as 'Purda-rule' or Petticoat government.
- When Maham Anga died, the so-called short Petticoat government of Akbar's time ended.
- In 1562 Akbar abolished the slavery system.
- Akbar was the first Muslim ruler who got maximum success in Rajasthan.
- Akbar's second attack on Gujarat is considered to be not only the fastest invasion of Akbar's time but the fastest in the history of the world of that age.
- In 1595 during Akbar's time, Muzaffar Hussain was the Persian Governor of Qandahar.
- Akbar's mother Hamida Bano Begum was a religious lady of a Sufi Shia family.
- Raja Birbal died fighting on the royal side in the Afghan-Baluchi rebellion during Akbar's time.
- In 1571 was built an Ibadatkhanah at Fatehpur Sikri where every Thursday, religious deliberation were held.
- Akbar was also impressed by Jainism. He invited the eminent Jain scholar Heer Vijay Suri from Tam Gachh in Gujarat to know about this religion.
- Impressed by Zoroastrianism, the holy fire was kept burning in Akbar's palace.
- Following the tradition of Hindu kings, Akbar started appearing for Darshan of his people from the Jharokha of his palace.
- In Akbar's time, the Prime Minister was known as Wazir or Vakil-i-Mutlaq.
- In Akbar's time, the Finance Minister was called Wazir or Deewan.
- Muzaffar Khan was the first to be appointed as Wazir during Akbar's time.
- The assistants of Deewan, known as Sahib-i-Taujeeh looked after the accounts of the Army.
- Another assistant of Deewan, Deewan-i-Bayutoot, looked after the Industries of different kinds.
- The officer who managed the royal treasury was known as Mushrif-i-Khazana.
- Meer Saman in Akbar's time, managed the affairs of the royal palace, Harem and kitchen.
- In Akbar's time, Amal Guzar was the officer who collected the revenue from the districts.
- Bitikchi prepared the data about the quality of land and its produce. On the same basis, the Amal Guzar fixed the revenue. Bitikchi was the second important officer in the Revenue department.
- Amal collected the revenue from the Pargana.
- In Akbar's time, the clerk was called Karkun. His main task was to record the cultivable land in the Pargana and keep an account of the realized and unrealized revenue.
- Akbar introduced Mansabdari system with its ranks of Jat and Sawar based on decimal

system.

- According to Blochman, Zat was the definite number of soldiers, the Mansabdars had to keep with them.
- According to Blochman the Sawar meant the definite number of cavalry.
- In Akbar's time, there were four kinds of land—Polaj, Chacher, Parauti and Banjar.
- In Akbar's time, Ibrahim Sarhindi translated the Sanskrit text of Atharva Ved in Persian.
- Mulla Shah Mohammad translated in Persian Raj Tarangini of Kalhan.
- Maulana Sherry translated Hari Vansh Puran in Persian.
- Abul Fazal translated Panch Tantra in Persian.
- Faizi translated the story of Nal Damayanti in Persian.
- The history of Islam was compiled in Tarikh-i-Alfi. It is a famous book.
- Akbar established a separate department of Painting, the chairman of this department was the famous painter Khwaja Abdus Samad.
- Abdussamad was an inhabitant of Persia who came to India from Shiraz. He was adorned with the title of Shirin Qalam for his attainments.
- Mohammad Hussain, the famous author of Akbar's Court was adorned with the title of Zari Qalam.
- Akbar built the Fort of Allahabad.
- The first building of Akbar's time was Humayun's tomb at Delhi built under the guidance of his step mother Haji Begum.
- The main mason who built Humayun's tomb belonged to Iran and his name was Mirza Meerak Ghayas.
- Akbar was born on Sunday. Hence Jahangir declared Sunday as a pious day.
- Nur Jahan was an educated lady. She was specially interested in music, painting and poetry. She composed poetry in Persian.
- The first Englishman to come to the Mughal Court was captain Hawkins.
- Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khana was the guardian and tutor of Jahangir.
- The English ambassador Sir Thomas Roe came to India during Jahangir's time.
- The Jahangir's autobiography is Tujuk-i-Jahangiri.
- Shahjahan was born on 5 January, 1592 at Lahore. The name of his mother was Jagat Gosain.
- Two big rebellions broke out during Shahjahan's time. One was the revolt of the ruler of Bundelkhand named Jujhar Singh and the other was the revolt in south under the leadership of Khan-i-Jahan Lodhi.
- The title of Malika-i-Zamani was conferred upon Arjumand Bano Begum.
- The first coronation of Aurangzeb was performed on 31 July, 1658 and the second coronation took place on 15 June, 1659.
- Aurangzeb passed an order and prohibited the repairs of the temples by the Hindus.
- Aurangzeb appointed Subedars and Muhatsibs to check the spread of education and Hinduism.
- Aurangzeb again levied Zazia upon Hindus.
- Under Aurangzeb, the Hindu traders paid 5% tax on goods while the Muslim traders were free from this tax.
- Aurangzeb issued orders to prohibit the celebration of Holi, Diwali and Basant etc. in the Mughal Court.
- Gokul and Raja Ram were the leaders of Jat revolt against Aurangzeb. After the death of Rajaram, his brother's son named Churaman continued the revolt. The Jat rebellion went on till the death of Aurangzeb and the Jats succeeded in establishing a free Jat state of Bharatpur near Mathura.

- In 1681, Akbar, the son of Aurangzeb revolted against him.
- The 9th Guru of the Sikh order, Guru Tegh Bahadur openly protested against the religious policy of Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb called him to Delhi and asked him to accept Islam. When he refused, he was beheaded.
- Shivaji was the founder of Maratha State. He fought against the state of Deccan, as well as the mughal empire. He was a great administrator.
- Shivaji was succeeded by Sambhaji who was captured and put to death by Aurangzeb.
- Rajaram ruled only as the representative of Shahu—the son of Shambhaji who was imprisoned by Aurangzeb. Rajaram never occupied the Maratha throne.
- After the death of Raja Ram Maratha war of independence was carried on by his wife Tarabai.
- Vasco de Gama came to India as the representative of the ruler of Portugal. He met Zamorin of Calicut and obtained trade facilities.
- In 1492 Pope Alexander VI granted the Portuguese the monopoly to trade with the east.
- From 1505 to 1509, Almeda remained in India as the first Portuguese Governor.
- Albuquerk was the successor of Almeda in India. His objective was to establish a Portuguese colony in India by intermarrying with Indians.
- After coming to India, the Dutch established their trade centres at Surat, Bharaunch, Cambay, Ahmedabad, Chinsura, Kasim Bazar, Patna, Balasore, Nagapattanam, Kochin, Masulipattanam and Agra.
- The main aim of the Dutch was to trade with the Islands of south-east Asia. India was just a passage for them. This is why the Dutch faced no rivalry with other European companies.
- In 1608, under the leadership of Captain Hawkins, the English fleet reached India.
- In 1717 the Mughal King Farrukh Siyar granted a Firman to the British giving them the trade rights.
- In 1692, the Nawab of Bengal issued an order to the French Company and they established a commercial Factory at Chandranagar.

Important Facts of Indian History

History of Modern India

- Muazzam occupied the Mughal throne as Bahadur Shah after his success in the war of succession.
- Muazzam, the son of Aurangzeb was called as the 'Shah Bekhabar'.
- The Mughal King Farrukh Siyar granted concession to the English men to trade in Bengal, Gujarat and Hyderabad.
- In 1759 Ali Mohar, the son of Alamgir sat upon the Mughal throne as Shah Alam II.
- After the death of Maratha ruler Shahu, the real power of the State came in the hands of Peshwas.
- Nawab Murshid Quli Khan of Bengal transferred his capital to Murshidabad from Dacca.
- Nawab Mir Qasim of Bengal transferred his capital to Moongher from Murshidabad.
- In the middle of the 18th century, the nominal ruler of Mysore was Chika Krishnaraj. The real power of the State lied with the two brothers—Nand Raj and Dev Raj.
- In 1761 Hyder Ali captured Nandraj and became the master of Mysore.
- In the first Anglo-Mysore war, Hyder Ali badly defeated the English army.
- In 1781 Hyder Ali conquered Arcot but in 1781 at Ponnai Sir Eyerkoot defeated him.
- Ali Muhammad Khan established the State of Rohilkhand.
- The early capital of Rohilkhand was 'Awala' which later shifted to Rampur.
- Guru Har Gobind Singh constructed the Akaal Takht at Amritsar.
- Guru Gobind Singh converted the Sikhs into a warring and military group.
- In 1721, the two sects of Sikhism 'Bandai' and 'Tatkhalasa' merged in one sect 'Khalsa'. This sect became a headache for the Mughals.
- The Sikhs were organized in 12 unions or misls which grew in political significance. Later Ranjeet Singh conquered these misls and organized them into Punjab State.
- The ruler of the Afghanistan conferred the title of Raja upon Ranjeet Singh and appointed him the Subedar of Lahore.
- The treaty of Amritsar was signed between the English and Ranjeet Singh in 1809. As a result the English checked the expansion of Ranjeet Singh towards the region of Sutluj.
- According to the treaty of Amritsar, the English accepted Ranjeet Singh as an independent ruler.
- During first Anglo-Sikh war, the Governor-General of India was Lord Hardinge.
- Punjab was ruled by Maharaja Dalip Singh when the Lahore Treaty was signed in 1846 between the Sikhs and the English after the defeat of Sikhs in the first Anglo Sikh war.
- During Sirajudaulla's time, the English settlement at Calcutta became a resort for the enemies of Nawab and the traitors.
- On 4th June, 1756 Sirajudaulla invaded and captured the Qasim Bazar factory of English near Murshidabad.
- The Black hole tragedy as it is known in history, came to light through the letter of Holwell. Some of the historians consider it imaginery.
- In the contemporary historical works like Sher-a-Mutkherin and Royas-us-Salatin, there is no reference to the Black hole tragedy.
- On 9th February, 1757, the Ali Nagar Treaty was signed between the English and the Nawab.
- After the war of Plassey, when Sirajudaulla was running away from Murshidabad towards Patna he was captured and killed.

- On 28 June, 1757, the English declared Mir Jafar as the Nawab of Bengal.
- After victory in Plassey war, the English Company obtained concessions to trade in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- On 25 November, 1759, the Bedara war was fought between the English and the Dutch and the Dutch were defeated. The victory helped the English in consolidating their hold on Bengal.
- Mir Qasim planned friendship with Vansittart to become the Nawab of Bengal.
- Mir Qasim gave to East India Company, the districts of Vardhman, Midnapur and Chittgaon for the expenditure of the English army.
- In 1764 the joint army of Mir Qasim, Shujauddaulla and Shah Alam fought with the English—the war of Buxar, the English were victorious in this war.
- After the Buxar War, the Allahabad treaty was signed between English and the Mughal King Shah Alam in 1765 AD.
- According to Allahabad Treaty, the districts of Kara and Allahabad were taken away from the Nawab of Oudh and given to Mughal King. The East India Company agreed to pay to the king a pension of Rs. 26 lacs. In lieu the English got Diwani rights in Bengal.
- After the death of Mir Jafar, his son Nizamuddaula was enthroned as Nawab of Bengal.
- K. M. Panikkar holds that from 1765 to 1772, the rule of East India Company in Bengal was the 'rule of dacoits'.
- During Warren Hastings period, the Treasury was transferred by the East India Company to Calcutta from Murshidabad and Calcutta was made the capital.
- During the Governorship of Warren Hastings, in every district of subjugated India one Civil and one Criminal Court was opened.
- The cases upto to Rs. 500 were referred to the Civil Court and alone it, the appeal could be made to the Sadar Diwani Adalat.
- The District Criminal Court was put in charge of an Indian Officer.
- The Regulating Act of 1773 established a Supreme Court at Calcutta.
- The Permanent settlement introduced by Cornwallis brought changes in the land system. Most of the land came in the hands of commercial and rich classes of Calcutta.
- The Permanent settlement ensured the income of the Government. Besides the cooperation of the new Zamindars was obtained.
- In the Mahalwari system, land revenues was fixed either through the local Zamindars or their hereditary tax collectors or the Zamindars of the Mahal. Mahal was the collection of villages. The Mahalwari system was known in Punjab as the village system.
- The Raiyyatwari system was introduced during early 19th century in some regions of Madras and Bombay. The Govt. directly obtained a fixed amount from the peasants.
- In the Raiyyatwari system, the revenue rate was fixed 45% to 50% of the total produce separately.
- The Raiyyatwari system had many defects which the Govt. official accepted at the time of a parliamentary inspection for the renewal of the Company's Charter.
- In the Fifth and Sixth decades of 19 century, the English invested in large amount to control Indian economy.
- The English invested their capital on roads and communications, Railway, Post and Telegraph, Banks and tea gardens.
- In 1830 the Ahoms again rebelled against the English. This time, the English Company adopted a peaceful policy and granted north Assam and some other region to King Purandar Singh.
- Raja Teerath Singh of Nanakkalo rebelled against the English with the help of Garo, Khampati and Sinhoppo tribes. Soon it took the shape of a mass-movement. In 1833, the English could crush it with superior military force.

- In 1825, the Assam Rifles rebelled against the English.
- In 1838, the Indian troops stationed at Sholapur rebelled due to non-payment of the full allowances.
- In 1850 the Gobind Garh regiment rebelled.
- On 1 January, 1857, the use of British made Enfield Rifles was started in India. In the cartridges of this Rifle, the fat of cows and pigs were used.
- In March 1857, the soldiers of Bairakpur Cantt refused to use the fat cartridges.
- On 2 May, 1857, the Oudh Regiment of Lucknow too refused to use these cartridges. As a result, the Oudh regiment was disbanded.
- To the soldiers of Meerut who had refused to use the fat cartridges, an English military officer—Carr Michael Smith issued the jail punishment of 5 years.
- On 10 May, 1857, a section of the infantry and cavalry of Merrut rebelled at about 5 P.M.
- The rebels marched to Delhi, captured the city and declared Bahadurshah the emperor of India. Bahadurshah assumed the leadership of revolt in Delhi.
- During this rebellion, Nana Saheb established his suzerainty over Kanpur and declared himself the Peshwa.
- In Bundelkhand Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi assumed the leadership of the revolt.
- In Bihar, the zamindar of Jagdishpur, named Kunwar Singh led the revolt.
- On 28 May, 1857, the soldiers of Nasirabad Cantt in Rajasthan, rebelled.
- Kota and Adva were the main centres of revolt in Rajasthan.
- The Central India, Tanya Tope led the revolt.
- In U.P. the important centres of revolution were Jhansi, Kanpur, Bareilly, Meerut, Lucknow, Aligarh, Mathura and Agra.
- The Bareilly rebellion was led by Batakhs Khan.
- The Commissioner of Oudh, Henry Laurence died of a blast on 4th July, 1857.
- While suppressing the revolt, the English officer Neil buried the dead Brahmans and burnt the dead Muslims.
- In March 1858, under the leadership of Kunwar Singh, the rebels captured Azamgarh.
- While marching towards Benaras from Azamgarh, there was an encounter between Kunwar Singh and the English officer Lord Mark in which Lord Mark had to run away to save his life.
- Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur was the only leader to have died under the banner of freedom.
- On 14 December, 1857, the English army blasted Kashmiri Gate of Delhi.
- In November 1857 the rebels defeated the English General Windham near Kanpur.
- Vinayak Damodar Saverker was the first to name the rebellion of 1857 as the first war of Indian independence.
- According to Sir Seeley, the rebellion of 1857 was fully a national revolt conducted by selfish soldiers.
- Sir John Lawrence, P. E. Roberts and V. A. Smith have called it a Sepoy Mutiny.
- According to V. A. Smith, the rebellion of 1857 was purely a sepoy mutiny which fully reflected the indiscipline of Indian soldiers and the foolishness of English military officers.
- According to Sir James Outram, the revolt of 1857 was the result of a conspiracy of the Muslims who desired to fulfill their self-interest on the strength of the Hindus.
- Ashok Mehta in his book, 'The Great Revolt', has attempted to prove that it was a national revolt.
- Patabhi Sita Ramaiyya takes it to be the first war of Indian independence.
- After crushing the revolt of 1857, they constituted an India Council and abolished the Board of Directors. There were 15 members in the India Council and a Secretary of State for India.
- After the revolt, Lord Canning announced the Declaration of the Queen at a Durbar held at

Allahabad. He called it, 'the Magna Carta of Indian people'.

- In the Declaration of the Queen, the policy of expansion of the political limits came to an end.
- The rebels responsible for the murder of Englishmen were punished. All others were pardoned.
- The objective of Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj, Ramkrishna Mission and the Theosophical society etc. was to herald a renaissance in India.
- Brahmo Samaj was founded in Calcutta by Raja Ram Mohan Roy on 20 August, 1828.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy always advocated the appointment of Indians on high govt. posts. He played a major role in the abolition of Sati system.
- After the death of Raja Ram Mohan Roy on 20 August, 1833, Devendara Nath Tagore assumed the leadership of the Brahmo Samaj.
- Aadi Brahmo Samaj was established by Devendra Nath Thakur.
- Bhartiya Brahmo Samaj was founded by Keshav Chandra Sen.
- The principles of Brahmo Samaj helped immensely in the birth and Spread Indian nationalism.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy established Vedant College, English School and Hindu College at Calcutta.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the advocate of English Education and he thought English to be the vehicle of progress.
- It was due to the effort of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, that the restriction upon the newspapers were lifted.
- In 1819, at Maharashtra, Prarthna Sabha was founded. It came to an end due to its limited scope.
- In 1867 Atma Ram Pandurang established Prarthna Samaj. M. G. Ranade, R. G. Bhandarkar and Narayan Chandrawarkar were the prominent members of this Samaj.
- Dayanand Saraswati left his house at the age of 21. As a Brahmachari Sadhu, he travelled to different places in India.
- Dayanand Saraswati started the propagation of his religion from Agra.
- In 1874, he wrote his famous book Satyarth Prakash.
- On 10 April, 1875 he founded Arya Samaj at Bombay.
- Totapuri, a Vedantic sadhu taught Vedant Sadhna to Dayananda.
- Ramkrishna Paramhans was born in 1836 in a poor Brahman family of Hoogly district of Bengal.
- Swami Vivekanand was the most devoted disciple of Swami Ramkrishna Paramhans.
- Ramkrishna Pramhans did not establish any Ashram or sect.
- In 1893 in the All Religion Conference at Chicago Vivekanand impressed everyone, and started a Vedant Samaj there.
- In 1896 Vivekanand established Ramkrishna Mission.
- In the last years of the third decade of the 19th century, the young Bengal movement was led by an Englishman named Henry William Derozio.
- On 7 September, 1875 in New York, U.S.A. Madame H.P. Blatavsky (Russian) and Col. H. S. Alcott (American) founded the Theosophical Society.
- Mrs. Annie Besant, an Irish lady was a very active member of Theosophical Society in India.
- Due to the efforts of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, in 1856, the Widow Remarriage Act was legislated.
- The slogan of 'Inkalab Zindabad' was given by Mohammad Iqbal.
- Sir Saiyyad Ahmad Khan founded the Anglo Oriental College at Aligarh in 1877 which later became known as Aligarh Muslim University.
- Haji Shariatullah was the initiator of Faryaz movement.

- In Maharashtra the Bharat Sewak Samaj was started by Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- In 1922 Amrit Lal Viththal Das established the Bheel Sewa Mandal.
- Jyoti Ba Phule was the champion of widowremarriage in Maharashtra.
- In 1911 Narayan Maltar Joshi organised the Social Service League, a society to solve the social problems. He was assisted by some educated Indians.
- Avanindra Nath Thakur founded the society known as—The Indian Society of Oriental Art.
- In the 19th century, the famous Bengali author Bankim Chandra Chatterjee composed the song— Vande Matram.
- In 1875, Sisir Kumar Ghose founded the India League.
- The Indian Association founded by Surendra Nath Banerjee was replaced by the Indian League in 1876.
- The credit for founding the Indian National Congress in 1885 goes to an English officer, Allen Octavian Hume.
- The first Conference of the Indian National Congress was held at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College, Bombay under the chairmanship of W. C. Banerjee.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak started Ganesh Mahotsav in 1893 and Shivaji Samaroh in 1895.
- Pandit Jugal Kishore published the first newspaper of India—Udant Martand. It was a paper which gave top priority to Indian interests.
- During Lord Curzon's time in 1905, Bengal was divided.
- In 1911, in Lord Hardinge's time, the partition of Bengal was cancelled.
- Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajeet Singh were exiled to Burma in 1907.
- In 1911 the capital of India was shifted to Delhi from Calcutta.
- On Nov. 1913, the Ghadar Party was founded at Sanfransisco city of America by the great revolutionary of Punjab named Lala Hardayal.
- Kashi Ram and Hardayal were the active members of the Ghadar Party.
- In 1906, Agha Khan founded the All India Muslim League.
- In 1916, a pact was signed between Muslim League and Congress which is known in history as the Lucknow Pact.
- In 1916 Bal Gangadhar Tilak established the Home Rule League of India.
- After Lucknow Pact, Congress and League presented the plan of political reforms based on separate electoral regions. This pact led to an increase in communalism.
- In 1914 Annie Besant brought out a newspaper in English named 'New India'.
- Gandhiji established the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.
- On 30 March, 1919, Satyagraha Day was observed in whole of India. The Satyagraha was peaceful at all places except Punjab and Delhi.
- Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin, the leaders of the Punjab Satyagraha were imprisoned. In protest, a meeting was organized at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar . The people who assembled here were gunned down. This is known as 'Jalhianwalla bagh Massacre' of April 1919.
- After the world war I, the Indian Muslims were excited due to the treatment meted out to Caliph by the British in Turkey. In 1919 they started the Khilafat movement under the leadership of Maulana Shaukat Ali and Muhammad Ali.
- The Congress joined the Muslims in Khilafat movement. On 31 August, 1919, the Khilafat Day was observed.
- Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-cooperation Mass Movement in 1920-21. But violence broke out at Chauri Chaura then in Gorakhpur district which saddened Gandhiji. In February 1922 he announced the closure of the movement.
- In March 1922 Motilal Nehru and Deshbandhu Chitranjan Das established the Swaraj Party.
- In the elections of 1923 the Swaraj Party scored 40 seats out of 148.

- In 1927 the Bardoli Satyagraha was conducted by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.
- In 1928 under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon a Commission came to India to inspect the administrative work. The Indians boycotted it as no Indian was a member of the Commission. In March 1928 the Commission went back.
- In the 1929 Lahore Congress session held under the chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru, the meaning of Swaraj was declared as total independence.
- In 1930 Gandhiji broke the Salt laws by his Dandi March and he started the Civil Disobedience movement.
- In 1930, the Congress boycotted the first Round Table Conference.
- In 1931, after Gandhi-Irwin pact Gandhiji went to attend the second Round Table Conference along with the members of Muslim League.
- In the third Round table conference in 1932, Congress did not send any representative. Only 46 members went to participate under different categories.
- The meeting of the Executive of Congress held on 1 January, 1932 decided to again start the Civil Disobedience Movement due to the completely negative attitude of the Government.
- The British Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald declared the communal award on 16 August, 1932.
- On 25 September, 1932, the Poona Pact was signed. Common agreement was made on two conditions for preparing the electoral regions. The representative of the Depressed classes was B.R. Ambedkar.
- In 1932 Gandhiji founded the Harijan Sewak Sangh for the uplift of the Harijans.
- On 8 May, 1933 Gandhiji declared the programme of 21 days fast for his self-purification.
- Gandhiji began 'Individual Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience on 1 August, 1933.
- The Government of India Act of 1935 had 312 articles and 19 enclosures.
- In 1935, the British provinces were 11 e.g., Madras, Bombay, Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Orissa, Central Provinces, Assam, North West Frontier Provinces, United Provinces and Sindh.
- The Government of India Act of 1935, the subjects were divided into three departments—Federal, Provincial and Concurrent.
- This Act divided the British provinces of India in two categories. 11 were the provinces under the Governor and 5 provinces were under Lieutenant Commissioners.
- The Govt. of India Act, 1935, proposed Federal system and Provincial autonomy. The plan of Federal system could not be implemented. The elections for the Provincial legislative Councils were held in the January-February of 1937.
- The Congress won majority in 5 provinces—Madras, United Provinces, Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa in the general election of 1937.
- In Punjab, the Unionist Party and Muslim League jointly formed the Government. This Government worked without any obstruction till 1947.
- In Bengal the Krishak Praja Party and the Muslim League jointly formed the Government. Its Cabinet worked till 14 August, 1947. Sikandar Hayaat Khan was the head of this Government.
- The Congress Cabinets worked from 1937 to 1939.
- In 1934, the members of Congress Executive, Acharya Narendra Dev, Jai Prakash and Achyut Patwardhan organized the Congress Socialist Party.
- In the Haripura session of the Congress (1938), S. C. Bose was unanimously elected the President.
- Subhash Chandra Bose organized a National Planning Committee.
- In 1939 Bose was reelected Congress President defeating Gandhi's candidate P. Sitaramayya.
- In April 1939, Subhash Chandra Bose resigned from the post of the President and started a militant party known as Forward Block.

- In 1939, Jawaharlal Nehru became the President of the Tribal Conference of Indian States.
- In 1933, a Muslim student named Choudhary Rahmat Ali studying in England proposed the formation of a separate Muslim State and called it Pakistan.
- On 24th March, 1940, in the Lahore Conference of the Muslim League, the Pakistan proposal was passed.
- Lord Linlithgo presented the August proposal before the Congress on 8 August, 1940 for getting cooperation during the war.
- The Individual Satyagraha was started from 17 October, 1940. Acharya Vinoba Bhave was the first Satyagrahi. Gandhiji postponed it on 17 December, 1940.
- It was restarted on 5 January, 1941. During this period more than 20 thousand people were arrested.
- Cripps Mission visited India in 1942. It was onemember Commission and only Sir Strafford Cripps was the member.
- The Congress and the League, both rejected the Cripps Proposals.
- The Quit India movement resolution was passed on 14 July, 1942 in the Executive of the Congress Session held at Wardha. It was reaffirmed on 8 August, 1942.
- The interim government of free India was organized on 21 October, 1943 by Subhash Chandra Bose in Singapore.
- 21 Indian political leaders were invited to attend a Conference at Simla in June 1945. It ended in failure.
- In December 1945, the General Elections were held in India. The Congress received the majority in 6 provinces.
- On 18 February, 1946, the non Commissioned officers and Naval soldiers of the Royal Indian Navy who were called Rattings, began a militant revolt at Bombay.
- In order to remove the Constitutional crisis the British Government sent the Cabinet Mission to India.
- It came on 29 March, 1946 to New Delhi and it declared its proposals.
- Muslim League observed the Direct Action Day on 16 August 1946.
- The Interim Government of India was organized under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru. The Cabinet took oath on 2nd September, 1946.
- The Constituent Assembly first met under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad on 6th December, 1946.
- Atlee declared on 20 February, 1947 that the English would leave India after transferring the power to responsible people before June 1948.
- The Mountbatten Plan of 3 June, 1947 was mainly the Plan of partition. It was agreed upon by the Executive of the Indian National Congress on 14-15 June in a meeting at Delhi.
- In July 1947, the Indian Independence Act was passed by the British Parliament.
- India became independent on 15 August, 1947.
- On 26 January, 1950, the state of Hyderabad merged in the Indian Federation.
- On 20 April 1954, the Panchsheel Pact was signed between India and China.
- On 20 October, 1962 China invaded upon India. Soon it occupied Assam Valley and Laddakh. On 21 November, 1962, China declared one sided ceasefire.

Mind Blowing Facts for General Knowledge

1. Turtles have no teeth.
2. Prehistoric turtles may have weighed as much as 5,000 pounds.
3. Only one out of a thousand baby sea turtles survives after hatching.
4. Sea turtles absorb a lot of salt from the sea water in which they live. They excrete excess salt from their eyes, so it often looks as though they're crying.
5. Helium is a colorless, odorless, tasteless inert gas at room temperature and makes up about 0.0005% of the air we breathe.
6. Helium Balloon Gas makes balloons float. Helium is lighter than air and just as the heaviest things will tend to fall to the bottom, the lightest things will rise to the top.
7. Helium Balloon Gas makes balloons float. Helium is lighter than air and just as the heaviest things will tend to fall to the bottom, the lightest things will rise to the top.
8. Camels can spit.
9. An ostrich can run 43 miles per hour (70 kilometers per hour).
10. Pigs are the fourth most intelligent animal in the world.
11. Dinosaurs didn't eat grass? There was no grass in the days of the dinosaurs.
12. Dolphins can swim 37 miles per hour (60 kilometers per hour).
13. A crocodile's tongue is attached to the roof of its mouth? It cannot move. It cannot chew but its Digestive juices are so strong that it can digest a steel nail, Glass pieces, etc.
14. Sharks are immune to disease i.e. they do not suffer from any Disease.
15. Animals are either right- or left-handed? Polar bears are always left-handed, and so is Kermit the Frog.
16. Paris, France has more dogs than people.
17. New Zealand is home to 70 million sheep and only 40 million people.
18. Male polar bears weigh 1400 pounds and females only weight 550 pounds, on average.
19. Bison are excellent swimmers? Their head, hump and tail never go below the surface of the water.
20. There are 6 to 14 frog's species in the world that have no tongues. One of these is the African dwarf frog.
21. A frog named Santjie, who was in a frog derby in South Africa jumped 33 feet 5.5 inches.
22. The longest life span of a frog was 40 years
23. The eyes of a frog flatten down when it swallows its prey
24. The name 'India' is derived from the River Indus
25. The Persian invaders converted it into Hindu. The name 'Hindustan' combines Sindhu and Hindu and thus refers to the land of the Hindus.
26. Chess was invented in India.
27. The 'place value system' and the 'decimal system' were developed in 100 BC in India.
28. The game of snakes & ladders was created by the 13th century poet saint Gyandev. It was originally called 'Mokshapat.' The ladders in the game represented virtues and the snakes indicated vices.
29. India has the most post offices in the world
30. 'Navigation' is derived from the Sanskrit word NAVGATI
31. The word navy is also derived from the Sanskrit word 'Nau'.
32. Until 1896, India was the only source for diamonds to the world
33. The 'place value system' and the 'decimal system' were developed in 100 BC in India.
34. A snail can sleep for 3 years.
35. The names of the continents all end with the same letter with which they start
36. Twenty-Four-Karat Gold is not pure gold since there is a small amount of copper in it. Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be molded with the hands.
37. Electricity doesn't move through a wire but through a field around the wire.
38. The first bicycle that was made in 1817 by Baron von Drais didn't have any pedals? People walked it along
39. The first steam powered train was invented by Robert Stephenson. It was called the Rocket.
40. A cheetah does not roar like a lion – it purrs like a cat (meow).
41. The original name for the butterfly was 'flutterby'
42. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
43. Ants don't sleep.
44. Dolphins usually live up to about twenty years, but have been known to live for about forty.
45. Dolphins sleep in a semi-alert state by resting one side of their brain at a time
46. A dolphin can hold its breath for 5 to 8 minutes at a time
47. Bats can detect warmth of an animal from about 16 cm away using its "nose-leaf".
48. Bats can also find food up to 18 ft. away and get information about the type of insect using their sense of echolocation.
49. The eyes of the chameleon can move independently & can see in two different directions at the same time.
50. Cockroach: Can detect movement as small as 2,000 times the diameter of a hydrogen atom.

51. Dragonfly: Eye contains 30,000 lenses.
52. Pig's Tongue contains 15,000 taste buds. For comparison, the human tongue has 9,000 taste buds.
53. The number system was invented by India. Aryabhatta was the scientist who invented the digit zero.
54. Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
55. Earth weighs 5,972,000,000,000,000,000 tons
56. Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.
57. A duck's quack doesn't echo anywhere
58. Man is the only animal who'll eat with an enemy
59. The average woman uses about her height in lipstick every five years.
60. The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25, AD 336 in Rome.
61. A Cockroach will live nine days without its head, before it starves to death.
62. A chimpanzee can learn to recognize itself in a mirror, but monkeys can't
63. A rat can last longer without water than a camel can
64. About 10% of the world's population is left-handed
65. Dolphins sleep with one eye open
66. Snakes have no external ears. Therefore, they do not hear the music of a "snake charmer". Instead, they are probably responding to the movements of the snake charmer and the flute. However, sound waves may travel through bones in their heads to the middle ear.
67. Many spiders have eight eyes.
68. The tongue of snakes has no taste buds. Instead, the tongue is used to bring smells and tastes into the mouth. Smells and tastes are then detected in two pits, called "Jacobson's organs", on the roof of their mouths. Receptors in the pits then transmit smell and taste information to the brain.
69. Birds don't sweat
70. The highest kangaroo leap recorded is 10 ft and the longest is 42 ft
71. Flamingo tongues were eaten common at Roman feasts
72. The smallest bird in the world is the Hummingbird. It weighs 1oz
73. The bird that can fly the fastest is called a White it can fly up to 95 miles per hour.
74. The oldest living thing on earth is 12,000 years old. It is the flowering shrubs called creosote bushes in the Mojave Desert
75. Tea is said to have been discovered in 2737 BC by a Chinese emperor when some tea leaves accidentally blew into a pot of boiling water.
76. A person can live without food for about a month, but only about a week without water. If the amount of water in your body is reduced by just 1%, one will feel thirsty. If it's reduced by 10%, one will die.
77. Along with its length neck, the giraffe has a very long tongue — more than a foot and a half long. A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue
78. Ostriches can kick with tremendous force, but only forward. Don't Mess with them
79. An elephant can smell water three miles away
80. If you were to remove your skin, it would weigh as much as 5 pounds
81. A hippopotamus can run faster than a man
82. India never invaded any country in her last 10000 years of history
83. The world's known tallest man is Robert Pershing Wadlow. The giraffe is 5.49m (18 ft.), the man is 2.55m (8ft. 11.1 in.).
84. The world's tallest woman is Sandy Allen. She is 2.35m (7 ft. 7 in.).
85. The only 2 animals that can see behind themselves without turning its head are the rabbit and the parrot.
86. The blue whale is the largest animal on earth. The heart of a blue whale is as big as a car, and its tongue is as long as an elephant.
87. The largest bird egg in the world today is that of the ostrich. Ostrich eggs are from 6 to 8 inches long. Because of their size and the thickness of their shells, they take 40 minutes to hard-boil. The average adult male ostrich, the world's largest living bird, weighs up to 345 pounds.
88. Every dolphin has its own signature whistle to distinguish it from other dolphins, much like a human fingerprint
89. The world's largest mammal, the blue whale, weighs 50 tons i.e. 50000 Kg at birth. Fully grown, it weighs as much as 150 tons i.e. 150000 Kg.
90. 90 % of all the ice in the world is on Antarctica
91. Antarctica is DRIEST continent. Antarctica is a desert
92. Antarctica is COLDEST continent, averaging minus 76 degrees in the winter
93. Mercury is the closest planet to the sun and it doesn't have a moon. Its atmosphere is so thin that during the day the temperature reaches 750 degrees, but at night it gets down to -300 degrees.
94. Jupiter is the largest planet. If Jupiter were hollow, you could fit 1000 earths inside! It is made up of gas and is not solid. The most famous feature on Jupiter is its Red Spot, which is actually an enormous hurricane that has been raging on Jupiter for hundreds of years! Sixteen moons orbit Jupiter.
95. Saturn is a very windy place! Winds can reach up to 1,100 miles per hour. Saturn is also made of gas. If you could find an ocean large enough, it would float. This planet is famous for its beautiful rings, and has at least 18 moons.
96. Uranus is the third largest planet, and is also made of gas. It's tilted on its side and spins north-south rather than east-west. Uranus has 15 moons.

97. Neptune takes 165 Earth years to get around the sun. It appears blue because it is made of methane gas. Neptune also has a big Spot like Jupiter. Winds on Neptune get up to 1,200 mile per hour! Neptune has 8 moons.
98. Pluto is the farthest planet from the sun... usually. It has such an unusual orbit that it is occasionally closer to the sun than Neptune. Pluto is made of rock and ice.
99. Just about everyone listens to the radio! 99% of homes in the United States have a least one radio. Most families have several radios.
100. Sound is sent from the radio station through the air to your radio by means of electromagnetic waves. News, music, Bible teaching, baseball games, plays, advertisements- these sounds are all converted into electromagnetic waves (radio waves) before they reach your radio and your ears.
101. At the radio station, the announcer speaks into a microphone. The microphone changes the sound of his voice into an electrical signal. This signal is weak and can't travel very far, so it's sent to a transmitter. The transmitter mixes the signal with some strong radio signals called carrier waves. These waves are then sent out through a special antenna at the speed of light! They reach the antenna of your radio. Your antenna "catches" the signal, and the radio's amplifier strengthens the signal and sends it to the speakers. The speakers vibrate, and your ears pick up the vibrations and your brain translates them into the voice of the radio announcer back at the station. When you consider all the places the announcer's voice travels.
102. Every radio station has its own frequency. When you turn the tuning knob on your radio, you are choosing which frequency you want your antenna to "catch."
103. Mountain lions are known by more than 100 names, including panther, catamount, cougar, painter and puma. Its scientific name is *Felis concolor*, which means "cat of one color." At one time, mountain lions were very common!
104. The large cats of the world are divided into two groups- those that roar, like tigers and African lions, and those that purr. Mountain lions purr, hiss, scream, and snarl, but they cannot roar. They can jump a distance of 30 feet, and jump as high as 15 feet. It would take quite a fence to keep a mountain lion out! Their favorite food is deer, but they'll eat other critters as well. They hunt alone, not in packs like wolves. They sneak up on their prey just like a house cat sneaks up on a bird or toy- one slow step at a time. A lion can eat ten pounds of meat at one time!
105. Queen ants can live to be 30 years old
106. Dragonflies can flap their wings 28 times per second and they can fly up to 60 miles per hour
107. As fast as dragonflies can flap their wings, bees are even faster... they can flap their wings 435 times per second
108. Human thigh bones are stronger than concrete.
109. You can't kill yourself by holding your breath
110. Your heart beats over 100,000 times a day
111. Right handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people
112. The elephant is the only mammal that can't jump!
113. Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails!
114. Women blink nearly twice as much as men
115. Honey is the only food that does not spoil. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found edible
116. Coca-Cola would be green if colouring weren't added to it.
117. More people are allergic to cow's milk than any other food.
118. Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand
119. Earth is the only planet not named after a god.
120. It's against the law to burp, or sneeze in a church in Nebraska, USA.
121. Some worms will eat themselves if they can't find any food!
122. It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open
123. Queen Elizabeth I regarded herself as a paragon of cleanliness. She declared that she bathed once every three months, whether she needed it or not
124. Slugs have 4 noses.
125. Owls are the only birds that can see the blue colour.
126. Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end
127. More than 1,000 different languages are spoken on the continent of Africa.
128. There was once an undersea post office in the Bahamas.
129. Abraham Lincoln's mother died when she drank the milk of a cow that grazed on poisonous snakeroot
130. After the death of Albert Einstein his brain was removed by a pathologist and put in a jar for future study.
131. Penguins are not found in the North Pole
132. A dentist invented the Electric Chair.
133. A whip makes a cracking sound because its tip moves faster than the speed of sound
134. Alexander Graham Bell's wife and mother were both deaf
135. Cockroaches break wind every 15 minutes.
136. Fish scales are an ingredient in most lipsticks
137. Canada" is an Indian word meaning "Big Village".
138. 259200 people die every day.

139. 11% of the world is left-handed
140. 1.7 liters of saliva is produced each day
141. The world's oldest piece of chewing gum is 9000 years old!
142. The largest beetle in the Americas is the Hercules beetle, which can be 4 to 6 inches in length. That's bigger than your hand!
143. A full-grown male mountain lion may be 9 feet long, including his tail!
144. There are two kinds of radio stations: AM and FM. That's why there are two dials on your radio. AM is used mostly for stations that specialize in talking, such as Christian stations that have Bible stories and sermons; sports stations that broadcast live baseball and football games; and stations that specialize in news programs and "talk shows," where listeners call the station and discuss various topics. FM is used mostly for stations that specialize in music.
145. The average lead pencil can draw a line that is almost 35 miles long or you can write almost 50,000 words in English with just one pencil
146. The Wright Brothers invented one of the first airplanes. It was called the Kitty Hawk.
147. The worst industrial disaster in India occurred in 1984 in Bhopal the capital of Madhya Pradesh. A deadly chemical, methyl isocyanate leaked out of the Union Carbide factory killing more than 2500 and leaving thousands sick. In fact the effects of this gas tragedy are being felt even today.
148. Mars is nicknamed the "Red Planet," because it looks reddish in the night sky. Mars has 2 moons.
149. Venus is nicknamed the "Jewel of the Sky." Because of the greenhouse effect, it is hotter than Mercury, even though it's not as close to the sun. Venus does not have a moon but it does have clouds of sulfuric acid! If you're going to visit Venus, pack your gas mask!
150. Tens of thousands of participants come from all over the world, fight in a harmless battle where more than one hundred metric tons of over-ripe tomatoes are thrown in the streets.

Who's Who - India and World latest Who's Who - December 2012

Latest Who's Who

Secretary General, United Nations

Ban Ki-moon

Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Christine Lagarde

President, World Bank

Jim Yong Kim

Secretary General, Amnesty International

Salil Shetty

Secretary General, Commonwealth

Kamalesh Sharma

High Commissioner, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Navanethem Pillay

President of Afghanistan

Hamid Karzai

President of Argentina

Ms Cristina Fernández de Kirchner

Prime Minister of Australia

Ms Julia Gillard

Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Ms Sheikh Hasina

President of Brazil

Ms Dilma Rousseff

President of Myanmar (Burma)

Thein Sein

Prime Minister of Canada

Stephen Harper

President of China

Hu Jintao

President of Cuba

Raúl Castro

President of France

François Hollande

Chancellor of Germany

Ms Angela Merkel

President of Nepal

Ram Baran Yadav

President of Pakistan

Asif Ali Zardari

President of South Africa

Jacob Zuma

President of Sri Lanka

Mahinda Rajapaksa

Latest Whos Who

India - Who's Who

President of India

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee

Vice-President & Chairman of Rajya Sabha

Mohammad Hamid Ansari

Prime Minister & Chairman of Planning Commission

Dr. Manmohan Singh

Chief Justice of India

Altamas Kabir

Speaker, Lok Sabha

Ms Meira Kumar

Chief of the Army Staff

General Bikram Singh

Chief of the Naval Staff

Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

Chief of the Air Staff

Air Chief Marshal Norman Anil Kumar Browne

Attorney General of India

Goolam Essaji Vahanvati

Solicitor General of India

Rohinton Nariman

Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha

Karia Munda

Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

P.J. Kurien

Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha

Ms Sushma Swaraj

Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha

Arun Jaitley

Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission

Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Chief Election Commissioner of India

V.S. Sampath

Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Vinod Rai

Governor of Reserve Bank of India

Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao

Chief Information Commissioner

Satyananda Mishra

Chairman of 13th Finance Commission

Vijay Kelkar

Chairman, NASSCOM

Natarajan Chandrasekaran

Union Minister for Finance

Mr. P. Chidambaram

Union Minister for Home Affairs

Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde

Union Minister for Agriculture; Food Processing Industries

Mr. Sharad Pawar

Union Minister for Defence

Mr. A. K. Antony

Union Minister for External Affairs

Mr. Salman Khurshid

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad

Union Minister for Human Resource Development

Mr. M. M. Pallam Raju

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas

Mr. M. Veerappa Moily

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy

Mr. Farooq Abdullah

Union Minister for Science and Technology

Mr. S. Jaipal Reddy

Union Minister for Urban Development & Parliamentary Affairs

Mr. Kamal Nath

Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs

Mr. Vayalar Ravi

Union Minister for Civil Aviation

Mr. Ajit Singh

Union Minister for Railways

Ms. Pawan K. Bansal

Union Minister for Labour and Employment

Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge

Communications & Information Technology

Mr. Kapil Sibal

Union Minister for Commerce & Industry; Textiles

Mr. Anand Sharma

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways

Mr. C. P. Joshi

Union Minister for Shipping

Mr. G. K. Vasan

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways

Mr. C. P. Joshi

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers

Mr. M.K Alagiri

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

Mr. Praful Patel

Union Minister for Coal

Mr. Sriprakash Jaiswal

Union Minister for Minority Affairs

Mr. K. Rahman Khan

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Panchayat Raj

Mr. V. Kishore Chandra Deo

Union Minister for Steel

Mr. Beni Prasad Varma

Union Minister for Rural Development

Mr. Jairam Ramesh

Union Minister for Mines

Mr. Dinsha Patel

Union Minister for Urban Poverty Alleviation

Mr. Ajay Maken

Union Minister for Law and Justice

Mr. Ashwani Kumar

Union Minister for Water Resources

Mr. Harish Rawat

Union Minister for Culture

Ms. Chandresh Kumari Katoch

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment

Ms. Kumari Selja

World - Geography

Geographic overview:

The surface of the earth is approximately 70.9% water and 29.1% land. The former portion is divided into large water bodies termed oceans. The World Factbook recognizes and describes five oceans, which are in decreasing order of size: the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and Arctic Ocean.

The land portion is generally divided into several, large, discrete landmasses termed continents. Depending on the convention used, the number of continents can vary from five to seven. The most common classification recognizes seven, which are (from largest to smallest): Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Asia and Europe are sometimes lumped together into a Eurasian continent resulting in six continents. Alternatively, North and South America are sometimes grouped as simply the Americas, resulting in a continent total of six (or five, if the Eurasia designation is used).

North America is commonly understood to include the island of Greenland, the isles of the Caribbean, and to extend south all the way to the Isthmus of Panama. The easternmost extent of Europe is generally defined as being the Ural Mountains and the Ural River; on the southeast the Caspian Sea; and on the south the Caucasus Mountains, the Black Sea, and the Mediterranean. Portions of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkey fall within both Europe and Asia, but in every instance the larger section is in Asia. These countries are considered part of both continents. Armenia and Cyprus, which lie completely in Western Asia, are geopolitically European countries.

Asia usually incorporates all the islands of the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The islands of the Pacific are often lumped with Australia into a "land mass" termed Oceania or Australasia. Africa's northeast extremity is frequently delimited at the Isthmus of Suez, but for geopolitical purposes, the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula is often included as part of Africa.

Although the above groupings are the most common, different continental dispositions are recognized or taught in certain parts of the world, with some arrangements more heavily based on cultural spheres rather than physical geographic considerations.

Area:

total: 510.072 million sq km

land: 148.94 million sq km

water: 361.132 million sq km

note: 70.9% of the world's surface is water, 29.1% is land

Area - comparative:

land area about 16 times the size of the US

top fifteen World Factbook entities ranked by size: Pacific Ocean 155.557 million sq km; Atlantic Ocean 76.762 million sq km; Indian Ocean 68.556 million sq km; Southern Ocean 20.327 million sq km; Russia 17,098,242 sq km; Arctic Ocean 14.056 million sq km; Antarctica 14 million sq km; Canada 9,984,670 sq km; United States 9,826,675 sq km; China 9,596,961 sq km; Brazil 8,514,877 sq km; Australia 7,741,220 sq km; European Union 4,324,782 sq km; India 3,287,263 sq km; Argentina 2,780,400 sq km

top ten largest islands: Greenland 2,166,086 sq km; New Guinea (Indonesia, Papua New Guinea) 785,753 sq km; Borneo (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia) 751,929 sq km; Madagascar 587,713 sq km; Baffin Island (Canada) 507,451 sq km; Sumatra (Indonesia) 472,784 sq km; Honshu (Japan) 227,963 sq km; Victoria Island (Canada) 217,291 sq km; Great Britain (United Kingdom) 209,331 sq km; Ellesmere Island (Canada) 196,236 sq km

Land boundaries:

the land boundaries in the world total 251,060 km (not counting shared boundaries twice); two nations, China and Russia, each border 14 other countries

note: 46 nations and other areas are landlocked, these include: Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Holy See (Vatican City), Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Paraguay, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, West Bank, Zambia, Zimbabwe; two of these, Liechtenstein and Uzbekistan, are doubly landlocked

Coastline:

356,000 km

note: 95 nations and other entities are islands that border no other countries, they include: American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Ashmore and Cartier Islands, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Baker Island, Barbados, Bermuda, Bouvet Island, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Christmas Island, Clipperton Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Comoros, Cook Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Cuba, Curacao, Cyprus,

Dominica, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), Faroe Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Greenland, Grenada, Guam, Guernsey, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Howland Island, Iceland, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jan Mayen, Japan, Jarvis Island, Jersey, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Kiribati, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mayotte, Federated States of Micronesia, Midway Islands, Montserrat, Nauru, Navassa Island, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Palmyra Atoll, Paracel Islands, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Helena, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Solomon Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Spratly Islands, Sri Lanka, Svalbard, Tokelau, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Virgin Islands, Wake Island, Wallis and Futuna, Taiwan

Maritime claims:

a variety of situations exist, but in general, most countries make the following claims measured from the mean low-tide baseline as described in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea: territorial sea - 12 nm, contiguous zone - 24 nm, and exclusive economic zone - 200 nm; additional zones provide for exploitation of continental shelf resources and an exclusive fishing zone; boundary situations with neighboring states prevent many countries from extending their fishing or economic zones to a full 200 nm

Climate:

a wide equatorial band of hot and humid tropical climates - bordered north and south by subtropical temperate zones - that separate two large areas of cold and dry polar climates

Terrain:

the greatest ocean depth is the Mariana Trench at 10,924 m in the Pacific Ocean

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Bentley Subglacial Trench (Antarctica) -2,555 m

note: in the oceanic realm, Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench is the lowest point, lying -10,924 m below the surface of the Pacific Ocean

highest point: Mount Everest 8,850 m

top ten highest mountains (measured from sea level): Mount Everest (China-Nepal) 8,850 m; K2 (Pakistan) 8,611 m; Kanchenjunga (India-Nepal) 8,598 m; Lhotse (Nepal) 8,516 m; Makalu (China-Nepal) 8,463 m; Cho Oyu (China-Nepal) 8,201 m; Dhaulagiri (Nepal) 8,167 m; Manaslu (Nepal) 8,163 m; Nanga Parbat (Pakistan) 8,125 m; Anapurna (Nepal) 8,091 m

Natural resources:

the rapid depletion of nonrenewable mineral resources, the depletion of forest areas and wetlands, the extinction of animal and plant species, and the deterioration in air and water quality (especially in some countries of Eastern Europe, the former USSR, and China) pose serious long-term problems that governments and peoples are only beginning to address

Land use:

arable land: 10.57%

permanent crops: 1.04%

other: 88.39% (2005)

Irrigated land:

3,245,566 sq km (2008 est.)

Natural hazards:

large areas subject to severe weather (tropical cyclones); natural disasters (earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions)

volcanism: the world is home to more than 1,500 potentially active volcanoes, with over 500 of these having erupted in historical times; an estimated 500 million people live near these volcanoes; associated dangers include lava flows, lahars (mudflows), pyroclastic flows, ash clouds, ash fall, ballistic projectiles, gas emissions, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunamis; in the 1990s, the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior, created a list of 16 volcanoes worthy of special study because of their great potential for destruction: Avachinsky-Koryaksky (Russia), Colima (Mexico), Etna (Italy), Galeras (Colombia), Mauna Loa (United States), Merapi (Indonesia), Nyiragongo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Rainier (United States), Sakurajima (Japan), Santa Maria (Guatemala), Santorini (Greece), Taal (Philippines), Teide (Spain), Ulawun (Papua New Guinea), Unzen (Japan), Vesuvius (Italy)

Environment - current issues:

large areas subject to overpopulation, industrial disasters, pollution (air, water, acid rain, toxic substances), loss of vegetation (overgrazing, deforestation, desertification), loss of wildlife, soil degradation, soil depletion, erosion; global warming becoming a greater concern

Geography - note:

the world is now thought to be about 4.55 billion years old, just about one-third of the 13.75-billion-year age estimated for the universe

Great Personalities of India

Varāhamihira

Indian philosopher and scientist also called **Varaha, or Mihira**

Born 505, Ujjain, India died 587, Ujjain

Indian philosopher, astronomer, and mathematician, author of the *Pañca-siddhāntikā* ("Five Treatises"), a compendium of Greek, Egyptian, Roman, and Indian astronomy.

Varāhamihira's knowledge of Western astronomy was thorough. In five sections, his monumental work progresses through native Indian astronomy and culminates in two treatises on Western astronomy, showing calculations based on Greek and Alexandrian reckoning and even giving complete Ptolemaic mathematical charts and tables.

Although Varāhamihira's writings give a comprehensive picture of 6th-century India, his real interest lay in astronomy and astrology. He repeatedly emphasized the importance of astrology and wrote many treatises on śakuna (augury) as well as the *Bṛhaj-Jātaka* ("Great Birth") and the *Laghu-Jātaka* ("Short Birth"), two well-known works on the casting of horoscopes.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/623232/Varahamihira>

Bipin Chandra Pal

Indian journalist

Born Nov. 7, 1858, Sylhet, India [now in Bangladesh] died May 20, 1932, Calcutta [now Kolkata]

Indian journalist and an early leader of the nationalist movement. By his contributions to various newspapers and through speaking tours, he popularized the concepts of *swadeshi* (exclusive use of Indian-made goods) and *swaraj* (independence).

Though originally considered a moderate within the Indian National Congress, by 1919 Pal had moved closer to the more militant policies of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, one of the leading nationalist politicians. In later years Pal allied himself with fellow Bengali nationalists who resented the cult of personality surrounding Mahatma Gandhi, the most popular nationalist leader. Pal's overriding concern in his writings from 1912 to 1920 was to achieve confederation of the different regions and different communities within India. After 1920 he remained aloof from national politics but continued to contribute to Bengali journals.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1354602/Bipin-Chandra-Pal>

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Indian social reformer

Born May 9, 1866, Ratnagiri district, India died Feb. 19, 1915, Pune

Social reformer who founded a sectarian organization to work for relief of the underprivileged of India. He led the moderate nationalists in the early years of the Indian independence movement.

In 1902 Gokhale resigned as professor of history and political economy at Fergusson College, Pune, to enter politics. As an influential and respected member of the Indian National Congress, the leading nationalist organization, Gokhale advocated moderate and constitutional methods of agitation and gradual reform. Three years later he was elected president of the Congress.

In addition to his political activities, Gokhale's deep concern with social reform led him to found the Servants of India Society (1905), whose members took vows of poverty and lifelong service to the underprivileged. He opposed the ill-treatment of untouchables, or low-caste Hindus, and also took up the cause of impoverished Indians living in South Africa.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/237223/Gopal-Krishna-Gokhale>

Michael Madhusudan Datta

Indian author Datta also spelled **Dutt**

Born Jan. 25, 1824, Sāgardari, Bengal, India [now in Bangladesh] died June 29, 1873, Calcutta, India

Poet and dramatist, the first great poet of modern Bengali literature.

Datta was a dynamic, erratic personality and an original genius of a high order. He was educated at the Hindu College, Calcutta, the cultural home of the Western-educated Bengali middle class. In 1843 he became a Christian.

His early compositions were in English, but they were unsuccessful and he turned, reluctantly at first, to Bengali. His principal works, written mostly between 1858 and 1862, include prose drama, long narrative poems, and lyrics. His first play, *Sarmistha* (1858), based on an episode of the ancient Sanskrit epic, the *Mahābhārata*, was well received. His poetical works are *Tilottamasambhab* (1860), a narrative poem on the story of Sunda and Upasunda; *Meghnadbadh* (1861), his most important composition, an epic on the *Rāmāyaṇa* theme; *Brajangana* (1861), a cycle of lyrics on the *Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa* theme; and *Birangana* (1862), a set of 21 epistolary poems on the model of Ovid's *Heroides*.

Datta experimented ceaselessly with diction and verse forms, and it was he who introduced *amitraksar* (a form of blank verse with run-on lines and varied caesuras), the Bengali sonnet—both Petrarchan and Shakespearean—and many original lyric stanzas.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/152282/Michael-Madhusudan-Datta>

Vivekananda

Hindu leaderoriginal name **Narendranath Datta**, **Datta** also spelled **Dutt**

Born Jan. 12, 1863, Calcutta died July 4, 1902, Calcutta

Hindu spiritual leader and reformer who attempted to combine Indian spirituality with Western material progress, maintaining that the two supplemented and complemented one another. His Absolute was man's own higher self; to labour for the benefit of mankind was the noblest endeavour.

Born into an upper-middle-class Kāyastha family in Bengal, he was educated at a Western-style university where he was exposed to Western philosophy, Christianity, and science. Social reform was given a prominent place in Vivekananda's thought, and he joined the Brahmo Samaj (Society of Brahmā), dedicated to eliminating child marriage and illiteracy and determined to spread education among women and the lower castes. He later became the most notable disciple of Ramakrishna, who demonstrated the essential unity of all religions. Always stressing the universal and humanistic side of the Vedas as well as belief in service rather than dogma, Vivekananda attempted to infuse vigour into Hindu thought, placing less emphasis on the prevailing pacifism and presenting Hindu spirituality to the West. He was an activating force behind the Vedānta (interpretation of the Upaniṣads) movement in the United States and England. In 1893 he appeared in Chicago as a spokesman for Hinduism at the World's Parliament of Religions and so captivated the assembly that a newspaper account described him as "an orator by divine right and undoubtedly the greatest figure at the Parliament." Thereafter he lectured throughout the United States and England, making converts to the Vedānta movement.

On his return to India with a small group of Western disciples in 1897, Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission at the monastery of Belur Math on the Ganges River near Calcutta. Self-perfection and service were his ideals, and the order continued to stress them. He adapted and made relevant to the 20th century the very highest ideals of the Vedāntic religion, and although he lived only two years into that century he left the mark of his personality on East and West alike.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/631407/Vivekananda>

Kabīr

Indian mystic and poet

Born 1440, Varanasi, Jaunpur, India died 1518, Maghar

Iconoclastic Indian poet-saint revered by Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs alike.

The birth of Kabīr (Arabic: “Great”) remains to this day shrouded in mystery and legend. Authorities disagree on both when he was born and who his parents were. One legend proclaims a divine virginal birth. His mother was reputed to have been of the Brahman caste and to have become pregnant after a visit to a Hindu shrine. Because she was unwed, she abandoned Kabīr, who was found and adopted by a Muslim weaver. That his early life began as a Muslim there is no doubt, although he later became influenced by a Hindu ascetic, Ramananda.

Though Kabīr is often depicted in modern times as a harmonizer of Hindu and Muslim belief and practice, it would be more accurate to say that he was equally critical of both, often conceiving them as parallel to one another in their misguided ways. In his view, the mindless, repetitious, prideful habit of declaiming scripture could be visited alike on the sacred Hindu texts, the Vedas, or the Islamic holy book, the Qur’ān; the religious authorities doing so could be Brahmins or Qāzīs; meaningless rites of initiation could focus either on the sacred thread or on circumcision. What really counted for Kabīr was utter fidelity to the one deathless truth of life, which he associated equally with the designations Allah and Ram—the latter understood as a general Hindu name for the divine, not the hero of the Ramayana. Kabīr’s principal media of communication were songs called padas and rhymed couplets (dohas) sometimes called “words” (shabdās) or “witnesses” (sakhis). A number of these couplets, and others attributed to Kabīr since his death, have come to be commonly used by speakers of north Indian languages.

Kabīr’s poetic personality has been variously defined by the religious traditions that revere him, and the same can be said for his hagiography. For Sikhs he is a precursor and interlocutor of Nanak, the founding Sikh Guru (spiritual guide). Muslims place him in Sufi lineages, and for Hindus he becomes a Vaishnava (devotee of the god Vishnu) with universalist leanings. But when one goes back to the poetry that can most reliably be attributed to Kabīr, only two aspects of his life emerge as truly certain: he lived most of his life in Banaras (now Varanasi), and he was a weaver (julaha), one of a low-ranked caste that had become largely Muslim in Kabīr’s time. His humble social station and his own combative reaction to any who would regard it as such have contributed to his celebrity among various other religious movements and helped shape the Kabīr Panth, a sect found across north and central India that draws its members especially but not exclusively from the scheduled castes (formerly known as untouchables). The Kabīr Panth regards Kabir as its principal guru or even as a divinity—truth incarnate. The broad range of traditions on which Kabīr has had an impact is testimony to his massive

authority, even for those whose beliefs and practices he criticized so unsparingly. From early on, his presence in anthologies of north Indian bhakti (devotional) poetry is remarkable.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/309270/Kabir>

Rabindranath Tagore

Bengali poetBengali **Rabīndranāth Ṭhākur**

Born May 7, 1861, Calcutta, India died Aug. 7, 1941, Calcutta

Bengali poet, short-story writer, song composer, playwright, essayist, and painter who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. Tagore introduced new prose and verse forms and the use of colloquial language into Bengali literature, thereby freeing it from traditional models based on classical Sanskrit. He was highly influential in introducing the best of Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and he is generally regarded as the outstanding creative artist of modern India.

The son of the religious reformer Debendranath Tagore, he early began to write verses, and after incomplete studies in England in the late 1870s, he returned to India. There he published several books of poetry in the 1880s and completed *Mānasī* (1890), a collection that marks the maturing of his genius. It contains some of his best-known poems, including many in verse forms new to Bengali, as well as some social and political satire that was critical of his fellow Bengalis.

In 1891 Tagore went to East Bengal (now in Bangladesh) to manage his family's estates at Shilaidah and Shazadpur for 10 years. There he often stayed in a houseboat on the Padma River (i.e., the Ganges River), in close contact with village folk, and his sympathy for their poverty and backwardness became the keynote of much of his later writing. Most of his finest short stories, which examine "humble lives and their small miseries," date from the 1890s and have a poignancy, laced with gentle irony, that is unique to him, though admirably captured by the director Satyajit Ray in later film adaptations. Tagore came to love the Bengali countryside, most of all the Padma River, an often-repeated image in his verse. During these years he published several poetry collections, notably *Sonār Tarī* (1894; *The Golden Boat*), and plays, notably *Chitrāṅgadā* (1892; *Chitra*). Tagore's poems are virtually untranslatable, as are his

more than 2,000 songs, which remain extremely popular among all classes of Bengali society.

In 1901 Tagore founded an experimental school in rural West Bengal at Śāntiniketan (“Abode of Peace”), where he sought to blend the best in the Indian and Western traditions. He settled permanently at the school, which became Viśva-Bhārati University in 1921. Years of sadness arising from the deaths of his wife and two children between 1902 and 1907 are reflected in his later poetry, which was introduced to the West in Gitanjali, Song Offerings (1912). This book, containing Tagore’s English prose translations of religious poems from several of his Bengali verse collections, including Gītāñjali (1910), was hailed by W.B. Yeats and André Gide and won him the Nobel Prize in 1913. Tagore was awarded a knighthood in 1915, but he repudiated it in 1919 as a protest against the Amritsar Massacre.

From 1912 Tagore spent long periods out of India, lecturing and reading from his work in Europe, the Americas, and East Asia and becoming an eloquent spokesperson for the cause of Indian independence. Tagore’s novels, though less outstanding than his poems and short stories, are also worthy of attention; the best known are Gorā (1910) and Ghare-Bāire (1916; The Home and the World). In the late 1920s, at nearly 70 years of age, Tagore took up painting and produced works that won him a place among India’s foremost contemporary artists.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/580333/Rabindranath-Tagore>

Indira Gandhi

Prime minister of India in full **Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi**

Born Nov. 19, 1917, Allahabad, India died Oct. 31, 1984, New Delhi

Politician who served as prime minister of India for three consecutive terms (1966–77) and a fourth term (1980–84). She was assassinated by Sikh extremists.

She was the only child of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India. She attended Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal, and the University of Oxford, and in 1942 she married Feroze Gandhi

(died 1960), a fellow member of the Indian National Congress (Congress Party). She was a member of the working committee of the ruling Congress Party from 1955, and in 1959 she was elected to the largely honorary post of party president. Lal Bahadur Shastri, who succeeded Nehru as prime minister in 1964, named her minister of information and broadcasting in his government.

On Shastri's sudden death in January 1966, Gandhi became leader of the Congress Party—and thus also prime minister—in a compromise between the right and left wings of the party. Her leadership, however, came under continual challenge from the right wing of the party, led by a former minister of finance, Morarji Desai. In the election of 1967 she won a slim majority and had to accept Desai as deputy prime minister. In 1971, however, she won a sweeping electoral victory over a coalition of conservative parties. Gandhi strongly supported East Bengal (now Bangladesh) in its secessionist conflict with Pakistan in late 1971, and India's armed forces achieved a swift and decisive victory over Pakistan that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

In March 1972, buoyed by the country's success against Pakistan, Gandhi again led her new Congress Party to a landslide victory in national elections. Shortly afterward her defeated Socialist Party opponent charged that she had violated the election laws. In June 1975 the High Court of Allahabad ruled against her, which meant that she would be deprived of her seat in Parliament and would have to stay out of politics for six years. In response, she declared a state of emergency throughout India, imprisoned her political opponents, and assumed emergency powers, passing many laws limiting personal freedoms. During this period she implemented several unpopular policies, including large-scale sterilization as a form of birth control. When long-postponed national elections were held in 1977, Gandhi and her party were soundly defeated, whereupon she left office. The Janata Party took over the reins of government.

Early in 1978 Gandhi's supporters split from the Congress Party and formed the Congress (I) Party—the "I" signifying Indira. She was briefly imprisoned (October 1977 and December 1978) on charges of official corruption. Despite these setbacks, she won a new seat in Parliament in November 1978, and her Congress (I) Party began to gather strength. Dissension within the ruling Janata Party led to the fall of its government in August 1979. When new elections for the Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament) were held in January 1980, Gandhi and her Congress (I) Party were swept back into power in a landslide victory. Her son Sanjay Gandhi, who had become her chief political adviser, also won a seat in the Lok Sabha. All legal cases against Indira, as well as against her son, were withdrawn.

Sanjay Gandhi's death in an airplane crash in June 1980 eliminated Indira's chosen successor from the political leadership of India. After Sanjay's death, Indira groomed her other son, Rajiv, for the leadership of her party. Gandhi adhered to the quasi-socialist policies of industrial development that had been begun by her father. She established closer relations with the Soviet Union, depending on that nation for support in India's long-standing conflict with Pakistan.

During the early 1980s Indira Gandhi was faced with threats to the political integrity of India. Several states sought a larger measure of independence from the central government, and Sikh extremists in Punjab state used violence to assert their demands for an autonomous state. In response, Gandhi ordered an army attack in June 1984 on the Harimandir (Golden Temple) at Amritsar, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, which led to the deaths of more than 450 Sikhs. Five months later Gandhi was killed in her garden by a fusillade of bullets fired by two of her own Sikh bodyguards in revenge for the attack on the Golden Temple.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/225198/Indira-Gandhi>

Ramana Maharshi

Hindu philosopher original name **Venkataraman Aiyer**

Born Dec. 30, 1879, Madurai, Madras states, India died April 14, 1950, Tiruvannāmalai

Hindu philosopher and yogi called "Great Master," "Bhagavan" (the Lord), and "the Sage of Aruṇāchala," whose position on monism (the identity of the individual soul and the creator of souls) and māyā (illusion) parallels that of Śaṅkara (c. ad 700–750). His original contribution to yogic philosophy is the technique of vicāra (self-"pondering" inquiry).

Born to a middle-class, southern Indian, Brahman family, Venkataraman read mystical and devotional literature, particularly the lives of South Indian Śaiva saints and the life of Kabīr, the medieval mystical poet. He was captivated by legends of the local pilgrimage place, Mt. Aruṇāchala, from which the god Śiva was supposed to have arisen in a spiral of fire at the creation of the world.

At the age of 17 Venkataraman had a spiritual experience from which he derived his vicāra technique: he suddenly felt a great fear of death, and, lying very still, imagined his body becoming a stiff, cold corpse. Following a traditional “not this, not that” (neti-neti) practice, he began self-inquiry, asking “Who am I?” and answering, “Not the body, because it is decaying; not the mind, because the brain will decay with the body; not the personality, nor the emotions, for these also will vanish with death.” His intense desire to know the answer brought him into a state of consciousness beyond the mind, a state of bliss that Hindu philosophy calls samādhi. He immediately renounced his possessions, shaved his head, and fled from his village to Mt. Aruṇāchala to become a hermit and one of India’s youngest gurus.

The publication of Paul Brunton’s *My Search in Secret India* drew Western attention to the thought of Ramana Maharshi (the title used by Venkataraman’s disciples) and attracted a number of notable students. Ramana Maharshi believed that death and evil were māyā, or illusion, which could be dissipated by the practice of vicāra, by which the true self and the unity of all things would be discovered. For liberation from rebirth it is sufficient, he believed, to practice only vicāra and bhakti (devotional surrender) either to Śiva Aruṇāchala or to Ramana Maharshi.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/490468/Ramana-Maharshi>

Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan

Muslim scholar Sayyid also spelled **Syad, or Syed, Ahmad** also spelled **Ahmed**

Born Oct. 17, 1817, Delhi died March 27, 1898, Aligarh, India

Muslim educator, jurist, and author, founder of the Anglo-Mohammedan Oriental College at Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India, and the principal motivating force behind the revival of Indian Islām in the late 19th century. His works, in Urdu, include *Essays on the Life of Mohammed* (1870) and commentaries on the Bible and on the Qur’ān. In 1888 he was made a Knight Commander of the Star of India.

Sayyid’s family, though progressive, was highly regarded by the dying Mughal dynasty. His father, who received an allowance from the Mughal

administration, became something of a religious recluse; his maternal grandfather had twice served as prime minister of the Mughal emperor of his time and had also held positions of trust under the East India Company. Sayyid's brother established one of the first printing presses at Delhi and started one of the earliest newspapers in Urdu, the principal language of the Muslims of northern India.

The death of Sayyid's father left the family in financial difficulties, and after a limited education Sayyid had to work for his livelihood. Starting as a clerk with the East India Company in 1838, he qualified three years later as a subjudge and served in the judicial department at various places.

Sayyid Ahmad had a versatile personality, and his position in the judicial department left him time to be active in many fields. His career as an author (in Urdu) started at the age of 23 with religious tracts. In 1847 he brought out a noteworthy book, *Āthār aṣṣanādīd* ("Monuments of the Great"), on the antiquities of Delhi. Even more important was his pamphlet, "The Causes of the Indian Revolt." During the Indian Mutiny of 1857 he had taken the side of the British, but in this booklet he ably and fearlessly laid bare the weaknesses and errors of the British administration that had led to dissatisfaction and a countrywide explosion. Widely read by British officials, it had considerable influence on British policy.

His interest in religion was also active and lifelong. He began a sympathetic interpretation of the Bible, wrote *Essays on the Life of Mohammed* (translated into English by his son), and found time to write several volumes of a modernist commentary on the Qur'ān. In these works he sought to harmonize the Islāmic faith with the scientific and politically progressive ideas of his time.

The supreme interest of Sayyid's life was, however, education—in its widest sense. He began by establishing schools, at Muradabad (1858) and Ghāzīpur (1863). A more ambitious undertaking was the foundation of the Scientific Society, which published translations of many educational texts and issued a bilingual journal—in Urdu and English.

These institutions were for the use of all citizens and were jointly operated by the Hindus and the Muslims. In the late 1860s there occurred developments that were to alter the course of his activities. In 1867 he was transferred to Benares, a city on the Ganges with great religious significance for the Hindus. At about the same time a movement started at Benares to replace Urdu, the language cultivated by the Muslims, with Hindi. This movement and the attempts to substitute Hindi for Urdu in the publications of the Scientific Society convinced

Sayyid that the paths of the Hindus and the Muslims must diverge. Thus, when during a visit to England (1869–70) he prepared plans for a great educational institution, they were for “a Muslim Cambridge.” On his return he set up a committee for the purpose and also started an influential journal, *Tahdhīb al-Akhlāq* (“Social Reform”), for the “uplift and reform of the Muslim.” A Muslim school was established at Aligarh in May 1875, and, after his retirement in 1876, Sayyid devoted himself to enlarging it into a college. In January 1877 the foundation stone of the college was laid by the Viceroy. In spite of conservative opposition to Sayyid’s projects, the college made rapid progress. In 1886 Sayyid organized the All-India Muhammadan Educational Conference, which met annually at different places to promote education and to provide the Muslims with a common platform. Until the founding of the Muslim League in 1906, it was the principal national centre of Indian Islām.

Sayyid advised the Muslims against joining active politics and to concentrate instead on education. Later, when some Muslims joined the Indian National Congress, he came out strongly against that organization and its objectives, which included the establishment of parliamentary democracy in India. He argued that, in a country where communal divisions were all-important and education and political organization were confined to a few classes, parliamentary democracy would work only inequitably. Muslims, generally, followed his advice and abstained from politics until several years later when they had established their own political organization.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/10149/Sir-Sayyid-Ahmad-Khan>

Buddha

Founder of Buddhism (Sanskrit: “awakened one”) clan name (Sanskrit) **Gautama** or (Pali) **Gotama**, personal name (Sanskrit) **Siddhartha** or (Pali) **Siddhatta**

Flourished c. 6th–4th century bce, Lumbini, near Kapilavastu, Shakya republic, Kosala kingdom [now in Nepal] died , Kusinara, Malla republic, Magadha kingdom [now Kasia, India]

Spiritual leader and founder of Buddhism.

The term buddha (Sanskrit: “awakened one”) is a title rather than a name, and Buddhists believe that there are an infinite number of past and future buddhas. The historical Buddha, referred to as the Buddha Gautama or simply as the Buddha, was born a prince of the Shakyas, on the India-Nepal border. He is said to have lived a sheltered life of luxury that was interrupted when he left the palace and encountered an old man, a sick man, and a corpse. Renouncing his princely life, he spent six years seeking out teachers and trying various ascetic practices, including fasting, to gain enlightenment. Unsatisfied with the results, he meditated beneath the bodhi tree, where, after temptations by Mara, he realized the Four Noble Truths and achieved enlightenment. At Sarnath he preached his first sermon to his companions, outlining the Eightfold Path, which offered a middle way between self-indulgence and self-mortification and led to the liberation of nirvana. The five ascetics who heard this sermon became not only his first disciples but also arhats who would enter nirvana upon death. His mission fulfilled, the Buddha died after eating a meal that may accidentally have contained spoiled pork and escaped the cycle of rebirth; his body was cremated, and stupas were built over his relics.

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/83105/Buddha>

Satyajit Ray

Indian film director

Born May 2, 1921, Calcutta, India died April 23, 1992, Calcutta

Bengali motion-picture director, writer, and illustrator who brought the Indian cinema to world recognition with *Pather Panchali* (1955; *The Song of the Road*) and its two sequels, known as the *Apu Trilogy*. As a director Ray was noted for his humanism, his versatility, and his detailed control over his films and their music. He was one of the greatest filmmakers of the 20th century.

Ray was an only child whose father died in 1923. His grandfather was a writer and illustrator, and his father, Sukumar Ray, was a writer and illustrator of Bengali nonsense verse. Ray grew up in Calcutta and was looked after by his mother. He entered a government school, where he was taught chiefly in Bengali, and then studied at Presidency College, Calcutta's leading college, where he was taught in English. By the time he graduated in 1940, he was fluent in both languages. In 1940 his

mother persuaded him to attend art school at Santiniketan, Rabindranath Tagore's rural university northwest of Calcutta. There Ray, whose interests had been exclusively urban and Western-oriented, was exposed to Indian and other Eastern art and gained a deeper appreciation of both Eastern and Western culture, a harmonious combination that is evident in his films.

Returning to Calcutta, Ray in 1943 got a job in a British-owned advertising agency, became its art director within a few years, and also worked for a publishing house as a commercial illustrator, becoming a leading Indian typographer and book-jacket designer. Among the books he illustrated (1944) was the novel *Pather Panchali* by Bibhuti Bhushan Banarjee, the cinematic possibilities of which began to intrigue him. Ray had long been an avid filmgoer, and his deepening interest in the medium inspired his first attempts to write screenplays and his cofounding (1947) of the Calcutta Film Society. In 1949 Ray was encouraged in his cinematic ambitions by the French director Jean Renoir, who was then in Bengal to shoot *The River*. The success of Vittorio De Sica's *The Bicycle Thief* (1948), with its downbeat story and its economy of means—location shooting with nonprofessional actors—convinced Ray that he should attempt to film *Pather Panchali*.

But Ray was unable to raise money from skeptical Bengali producers, who distrusted a first-time director with such unconventional ideas. Shooting could not begin until late 1952, using Ray's own money, with the rest eventually coming from a grudging West Bengal government. The film took two-and-a-half years to complete, with the crew, most of whom lacked any experience whatsoever in motion pictures, working on an unpaid basis. *Pather Panchali* was completed in 1955 and turned out to be both a commercial and a tremendous critical success, first in Bengal and then in the West following a major award at the 1956 Cannes International Film Festival. This assured Ray the financial backing he needed to make the other two films of the trilogy: *Aparajito* (1956; *The Unvanquished*) and *Apur Sansar* (1959; *The World of Apu*). *Pather Panchali* and its sequels tell the story of Apu, the poor son of a Brahman priest, as he grows from childhood to manhood in a setting that shifts from a small village to the city of Calcutta. Western influences impinge more and more on Apu, who, instead of being satisfied to be a rustic priest, conceives troubling ambitions to be a novelist. The conflict between tradition and modernity is the great theme spanning all three films, which in a sense portray the awakening of India in the first half of the 20th century.

Ray never returned to this saga form, his subsequent films becoming more and more concentrated in time, with an emphasis on psychology rather than conventional narrative. He also consciously avoided

repeating himself. As a result, his films span an unusually wide gamut of mood, milieu, period, and genre, with comedies, tragedies, romances, musicals, and detective stories treating all classes of Bengali society from the mid-19th to the late 20th century. Most of Ray's characters are, however, of average ability and talents—unlike the subjects of his documentary films, which include Rabindranath Tagore (1961) and *The Inner Eye* (1972). It was the inner struggle and corruption of the conscience-stricken person that fascinated Ray; his films primarily concern thought and feeling, rather than action and plot.

Some of Ray's finest films were based on novels or other works by Rabindranath Tagore, who was the principal creative influence on the director. Among such works, *Charulata* (1964; *The Lonely Wife*), a tragic love triangle set within a wealthy, Western-influenced Bengali family in 1879, is perhaps Ray's most accomplished film. *Teen Kanya* (1961; "Three Daughters," English-language title *Two Daughters*) is a varied trilogy of short films about women, while *Ghare Baire* (1984; *The Home and the World*) is a sombre study of Bengal's first revolutionary movement, set in 1907–08 during the period of British rule.

Ray's major films about Hindu orthodoxy and feudal values (and their potential clash with modern Western-inspired reforms) include *Jalsaghar* (1958; *The Music Room*), an impassioned evocation of a man's obsession with music; *Devi* (1960; *The Goddess*), in which the obsession is with a girl's divine incarnation; *Sadgati* (1981; *Deliverance*), a powerful indictment of caste; and *Kanchenjunga* (1962), Ray's first original screenplay and first colour film, a subtle exploration of arranged marriage among wealthy, westernized Bengalis. *Shatranj ke Khilari* (1977; *The Chess Players*), Ray's first film made in the Hindi language, with a comparatively large budget, is an even subtler probing of the impact of the West on India. Set in Lucknow in 1856, just before the Indian Mutiny, it depicts the downfall of the ruler Wajid Ali at the hands of the British with exquisite irony and pathos.

Although humour is evident in almost all of Ray's films, it is particularly marked in the comedy *Parash Pathar* (1957; *The Philosopher's Stone*) and in the musical *Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne* (1969; *The Adventures of Goopy and Bagha*), based on a story by his grandfather. The songs composed by Ray for the latter are among his best-known contributions to Bengali culture.

The rest of Ray's major work—with the exception of his moving story of the Bengal Famine of 1943–44, *Ahsani Sanket* (1973; *Distant Thunder*)—chiefly concerns Calcutta and modern Calcuttans. *Aranyer Din Ratri* (1970; *Days and Nights in the Forest*) observes the adventures of four young men trying to escape urban mores on a trip to the country, and

failing. Mahanagar (1963; The Big City) and a trilogy of films made in the 1970s—Pratidwandi (1970; The Adversary), Seemabaddha (1971; Company Limited), and Jana Aranya (1975; The Middleman)—examine the struggle for employment of the middle class against a background (from 1970) of revolutionary, Maoist-inspired violence, government repression, and insidious corruption. After a gap in which Ray made Pikoo (1980) and then fell ill with heart disease, he returned to the subject of corruption in society. Ganashatru (1989; An Enemy of the People), an Indianized version of Henrik Ibsen's play, Shakha Prashakha (1990; Branches of the Tree), and the sublime Agantuk (1991; The Stranger), with their strong male central characters, each represent a facet of Ray's own personality, defiantly protesting against the intellectual and moral decay of his beloved Bengal.

The motion-picture director also established a parallel career in Bengal as a writer and illustrator, chiefly for young people. He revived the children's magazine Sandesh (which his grandfather had started in 1913) and edited it until his death in 1992. Ray was the author of numerous short stories and novellas, and in fact writing, rather than filmmaking, became his main source of income. His stories have been translated and published in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere. Some of Ray's writings on cinema are collected in Our Films, Their Films (1976).

For more information, please click the following link:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/492404/Satyajit-Ray>

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