

National Symbols of India

National Flag (Tiranga)

- Adopted on July 22, 1947 (୨୨ ଜୁଲାଇ ୧୯୪୭ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- Designed by Pingali Venkayya (ପିଙ୍ଗଳି ଭେଙ୍ଗ୍ଯା)
- Three colors (ତିନୋଟି ରଙ୍ଗ): Saffron, White, and Green
- Ratio of 2:3 (୨:୩ ଅନୁପାତ) (length to width)
- Ashoka Chakra (ଅଶୋକ ଚକ୍ର) in navy blue with 24 spokes (୨୪ଟି ଶଳକା)
- Made of khadi (ଖଡ଼ି) as per the Flag Code of India

National Emblem

- Adopted on January 26, 1950 (୨୬ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ୧୯୫୦ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- Adapted from the Lion Capital of Ashoka (ଅଶୋକଙ୍କ ସିଂହ ସ୍ତମ୍ଭ) at Sarnath
- Features four lions (ଚାରୋଟି ସିଂହ) standing back to back
- Base shows horse, bull, lion, and elephant (ଘୋଡ଼ା, ବଳଦ, ସିଂହ, ଏବଂ ହାତୀ)
- Dharma Chakra (ଧର୍ମ ଚକ୍ର) in the center
- Motto: "Satyameva Jayate" (ସତ୍ୟମେବ ଜୀବନେ) - "Truth Alone Triumphs"

National Anthem

- "Jana Gana Mana" (ଜନ ଗଣ ମନ)
- Written by Rabindranath Tagore (ରବୀନ୍ଦ୍ରନାଥ ଠାକୁର) in Bengali
- First sung on December 27, 1911 (୨୭ ଡିସେମ୍ବର ୧୯୧୧ରେ ପ୍ରଥମ ଥର ଗାନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- Officially adopted on January 24, 1950 (୨୪ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ୧୯୫୦ରେ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଭାବେ ଗ୍ରହଣ)
- Playing time: 52 seconds (୫୨ ସେକେଣ୍ଟ୍ ସମୟ)
- Complete version has five stanzas (ପାଞ୍ଚଟି ପଦ୍ୟାଂଶ୍ଚ)

National Song

- "Vande Mataram" (ବଦେ ମାତରମ୍)
- Written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (ବଙ୍କିମ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଚାଟୋପାଧ୍ୟାୟ)
- First published in his novel "Anandamath" (ଆନନ୍ଦମତ୍) in 1882
- Equal status (ସମାନ ମର୍ଯ୍ୟାଦା) to Jana Gana Mana, but not a replacement
- Music composed by Rabindranath Tagore (ରବୀନ୍ଦ୍ରନାଥ ଠାକୁର)

National Animal

- **Royal Bengal Tiger** (ରଜ୍ୟାଳ ବେଙ୍ଗଳ ବାଘ) (Panthera tigris tigris)
- **Adopted in 1973** (୧୯୭୩ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା) with the launch of Project Tiger
- Symbolizes **power, strength, and grace** (ଶକ୍ତି, ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟ, ଏବଂ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ୟ)
- **Protected under Schedule I** (ଅନୁସୂଚୀ I ଅଧୀନରେ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- **National animal status** (ଜାତୀୟ ପଣ୍ଡ ମାନ୍ୟତା) helped conservation efforts

National Bird

- **Indian Peafowl** (ଭାରତୀୟ ମନ୍ଦୂର) (Pavo cristatus)
- Also known as the **peacock** (ମନ୍ଦୂର)
- **Adopted in 1963** (୧୯୬୩ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- Symbolizes **beauty, grace, and pride** (ସୁନ୍ଦରତା, ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ୟ, ଏବଂ ଗର୍ବ)
- **Sacred bird** (ପବିତ୍ର ପକ୍ଷୀ) in Indian mythology
- **Protected species** (ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ପ୍ରଜାତି) under the Wildlife Protection Act

National Flower

- **Lotus** (ପଡ଼ୁ) (Nelumbo nucifera)
- **Adopted in 1950** (୧୯୫୦ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- **Sacred in Hinduism and Buddhism** (ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଧର୍ମ ଏବଂ ବୌଦ୍ଧ ଧର୍ମରେ ପବିତ୍ର)
- Symbolizes **purity, divinity, and enlightenment** (ପବିତ୍ରତା, ଦିବ୍ୟତା, ଏବଂ ଜ୍ଞାନପ୍ରାୟ)
- Also the **national flower of Vietnam** (ଭିଏତନାମର ମଧ୍ୟ ଜାତୀୟ ଫୁଲ)
- **Grows in muddy water** (କାହୁଆ ପାଣିରେ ବଢ଼େ) but remains clean, symbolizing resilience

National Tree

- **Banyan Tree** (ବରଗଛ) (Ficus benghalensis)
- **Adopted in 1950** (୧୯୫୦ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- Symbolizes **longevity and vastness** (ଦୀଘାୟୁ ଏବଂ ବିଶାଳତା)
- Mentioned in many **Hindu scriptures** (ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଶାସ୍ତ୍ର)
- Can live for **over 1000 years** (୧୦୦୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ)
- Has **aerial prop roots** (ଆକାଶୀୟ ସହାୟକ ମୂଳ) that grow into trunks

National Fruit

- **Mango** (ଆମ୍) (Mangifera indica)
- **Native to India** (�ାରତର ମୂଳ ଫୁଲ)
- Symbolizes **prosperity and abundance** (ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଏବଂ ପ୍ରାଚୁର୍ଯ୍ୟ)
- **Over 1000 varieties** (୧୦୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ପ୍ରକାର) grown in India
- Mentioned in **ancient Sanskrit literature** (ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ସଂସ୍କୃତ ସାହିତ୍ୟ)
- Nicknamed "**King of Fruits**" (ଫୁଲର ରାଜ୍)

National Aquatic Animal

- **Gangetic Dolphin** (ଗଙ୍ଗାର ଡଲିଫିନ୍) (Platanista gangetica)
- **Adopted in 2009** (୨୦୦୯ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- **Endangered species** (ବିପଦଗ୍ରହ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଜାତି)
- **Nearly blind** (ପ୍ରାୟ ଅଛି) and uses sonar to navigate
- Found in the **Ganges and Brahmaputra river systems** (ଗଙ୍ଗା ଏବଂ ବ୍ରାହ୍ମପୁରୁ ନଦୀ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ)
- **Gangetic Dolphin Conservation Project** (ଗଙ୍ଗାର ଡଲିଫିନ୍ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ) launched in 2016

National Currency

- **Indian Rupee** (ଭାରତୀୟ ଟଙ୍କା)
- **Symbol: ₹** (ପ୍ରତୀକ: ₹)
- Symbol designed by **D. Udaya Kumar** (ଡି. ଉଦୟ କୁମାର)
- **Adopted in 2010** (୨୦୧୦ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- Based on **Devanagari "₹"** and **Roman "R"** (ଦେବନାଗରୀ "₹" ଏବଂ ରୋମାନ୍ "R" ରେ ଆଧାରିତ)
- **Reserve Bank of India** (ଭାରତୀୟ ରିଜର୍ସ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ) is sole issuing authority

National Calendar

- **Saka Calendar** (ଶକ କ୍ୟାଲେଣ୍ଡର)
- **Adopted in 1957** (୧୯୫୭ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା)
- First month: **Chaitra** (ଚୈତ୍ରୀ)
- **New Year begins on March 22** (ନବବର୍ଷ ମାର୍ଚ୍ ୨୨ରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ) (March 21 in leap years)

- Based on the **vernal equinox** (বসন্ত বিশুব)
- Used alongside the **Gregorian calendar** (গ্রেগোরীয় ক্যালেণ্ডার সহিত ব্যবহৃত)

National River

- **Ganga (Ganges)** (গঙ্গা)
- **Declared in 2008** (২০০৮ রে ঘোষণা করায়াকৃত)
- **2,525 km long** (২,৫২৫ কিমি লম্বা)
- Originates from **Gangotri Glacier** (গঙ্গাত্রী হিমবাহ)
- **Sacred river** (পবিত্র নদী) in Hinduism
- **Namami Gange Programme** (নমামি গঙ্গা কার্যক্রম) launched for its conservation

National Game

- **Hockey** (হকি)
- India has won **8 Olympic gold medals** (৮ অলিম্পিক স্বর্ণ পদক) in hockey
- **Major Dhyan Chand** (মেজর ধ্যান চান্দ), the legendary player
- **Khelo India** (খেলো ইশ্বরী) promotes hockey at grassroots
- **National Hockey Day: August 29** (জাতীয় হকি দিবস: আগস্ট ২৯)

National Reptile

- **King Cobra** (রাজ নাগ) (Ophiophagus hannah)
- **World's longest venomous snake** (বিশ্বর দীর্ঘতম বিষধর সর্প)
- Can grow up to **18 feet** (১৮ ফুট) in length
- Found in **Western Ghats and Northeast India** (পশ্চিম ঘাট এবং উত্তর-পূর্ব ভারত)
- **Protected species** (সুরক্ষিত প্রজাতি) under the Wildlife Protection Act

Important Constitutional Provisions (OPSC Focus)

- National symbols are protected under **The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971** (জাতীয় সম্মান অপমান নিবারণ অধীনিয়ত, ১৯৭১)
- **Article 51A** (অনুচ্ছেদ ৫১A) makes it a fundamental duty to respect national symbols
- **Flag Code of India, 2002** (ভারতের পতাকা সংরক্ষণ, ২০০২) governs usage of the national flag

- **Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950** (ପ୍ରତୀକ ଏବଂ ନାମ (ଅନୁଚିତ ବ୍ୟବହାର ନିବାରଣ) ଅଧ୍ୟନିୟମ, ୧୯୫୦) protects national emblems
- **Wildlife conservation efforts** (ବନ୍ୟୋଗ୍ରାୟୀ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପ୍ରୟାସ) for symbols that are endangered species

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