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# General Knowledge
# Refresher
# 2016

O.P. Khanna
Desh Deepak Khanna

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**O.P. Khanna**
**Desh Deepak Khanna**

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*This book is dedicated
to my father
Sh. O.P. Khanna*

# Preface

The 2015 Edition of General Knowledge Refresher was very well appreciated by our readers. I thank all for the positive response. Now, the 2016 Edition is in your hand which has been thoroughly updated and revised.

*General Knowledge Refresher* was written by my father, late Mr O.P. Khanna, in 1971. Since then, it was continually published for more than 38 years, till 2008. The publication was suspended after the death of Mr O.P. Khanna in 2008 and now, the book is being re-launched in tie-up with Asian Books Pvt. Ltd..

Mr O.P. Khanna was a pioneer in his field. In 1959, he had launched *The Competition Master*, a monthly magazine, which went on to become a leading magazine of India in its segment.

*General Knowledge Refresher* has been a very popular GK book ever-since it first got published in 1971. It is known for its focused approach, well-layout pages, and up-to-date facts and figures. It was originally written by an author who thoroughly understood the requirements of young students appearing for various competitive exams. The approach while updating the book and presenting it in a new avatar remains the same.

With *General Knowledge Refresher* the reader gets a GK book written and compiled by authors with more than 30 years experience in the field. An added advantage is the support of the entire expert team of writers and contributors of *The Competition Master* magazine.

The book has been written keeping in mind the requirements of various competitive examinations in India, like:

Civil Services Examination

State Civil Services Examinations

Examinations conducted by UPSC and SSC

RBI and various Bank Recruitment Examinations

Defence Services Examinations – NDA and CDS etc.

Railway Recruitment Examinations

LIC, GIC-AAO etc Examinations

MBA and Hotel Management Exams

However, even school children, especially of classes 8 to 12, will find this book to be a useful resource while preparing for various quiz competitions and general knowledge Olympiads. Professionals wanting to acquire general awareness will also find this book useful.

Current Affairs and Current GK are very important sections of almost all competitive exams being held today. The Current Affairs and Current GK sections of the book are quite exhaustive. At the same time, the information is provided in the form that is easy to remember and without any clutter. Readers can visit *www.competitionmaster.com* for latest updates on current affairs and current GK. Access to the website is without any charge.

Another very unique section is the Quick Revision Notes section. The revision points on History, Geography, Science and General Information etc. are based on questions asked in various competitive examinations over the last few years. While providing the reader with lots of additional information, these sections are a good revision resource.

This book is a legacy of Mr O.P. Khanna. I am just continuing with the good work he did, and remain grateful to him for passing on this legacy to me.

I express my gratitude to my mother, Mrs Sudesh Khanna and my wife, Mrs Alpna Khanna, who constantly encouraged me and inspired me to update and re-launch this book.

I would also like to thank the entire editorial team of my publishers, for bringing out this book.

My best wishes to all the aspirants in forthcoming competitive examinations. I am quite confident that they will find this book to be a very useful resource in their examination preparations.

**Desh Deepak Khanna**

# Contents

# 1
## Present-Day India

India lies to the north of the equator, between 8°-4' and 37°-6' north latitude and 68°-7' and 97°-25' east longitude. It is bounded on the south-west by the Arabian Sea and on the south-east by the Bay of Bengal. On the north, north-east and north-west lie the Himalayan ranges. The southern tip, Kanya-kumari, touches the Indian Ocean.

India measures 3214 km from north to south and 2933 km from east to west. The total land area is 3,287,263 sq km. India has a land frontier of 15,200 km and a coastline of 7516.5 km.

The southernmost point in Indian Territory, (in Great Nicobar Islands) is the Indira Point, while Kanyakumari, also known as Cape Comorin, is the southernmost point of Indian mainland.

The 82°30'E longitude is taken as Standard Time Meridian of India, as it passes through the middle of India (at Naini, near Allahabad). Indian Standard Time is GMT +05:30

*The States/Union Territories having a coastline on the Bay of Bengal are:* Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar islands. *The States having common border with Myanmar are:* Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. *The States having coastline on Arabian Sea are:* Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep.

The Indian Union is made-up of 29 States, six Union Territories and the National Capital Territory Delhi.

Areawise, Rajasthan is the biggest State of India (342,239 sq km) and Goa is the smallest (3,702 sq. km.).

India has a common border with Afghanistan and Pakistan to north-west, China, Bhutan and Nepal to north, Myanmar to the east and Bangladesh to the east of West Bengal.

A narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar separates India and Sri Lanka.

**Languages:** Languages recognised in the Eighth Schedule of Indian Constitution are: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada,

Kashmiri, Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Santhali, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Konkani, Nepali and Manipuri.

*Originally fourteen languages were specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Sindhi was included as the fifteenth recognised language, vide the Constitution (21st Amendment) Act. Nepali, Manipuri and Konkani were included vide the Constitution (71st Amendment) Act. Bodo, Maithili, Santhali and Dogri were inculded vide the Constitution (92nd Amendment Act).*

**Prominent Indian languages having Dravadian origin:** Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada.

**Literacy rate:** As per Population Census of India 2011, the Literacy rate of India has gone up to 74.04% in 2011 from 65.38% in 2001. Male literacy rate is 82.14% and female literacy rate is 65.46%. With 93.9% literacy rate, Kerala is the most literate State of India. Bihar, with 63.08% literacy rate, is the last in terms of literacy rate.

## POPULATION

*Population of India in 2012:* 1,220,200,000 (1.22 billion).
*Total Male Population:* 628,800,000 (628.8 million).
*Total Female Population:* 591,400,000 (591.4 million).
*Sex Ratio:* 940 females per 1,000 males.

India is the second most populous country in the world. India represents almost 17.31% of the world's population, which means one out of six people on this planet live in India. With the population growth rate at 1.58%, India is predicted to have more than 1.53 billion people by the end of 2030.

*Population-wise, Uttar Pradesh is the largest and Sikkim the smallest.*

More than 50% of India's current population is below the age of 25 and over 65% below the age of 35. About 72.2% of the population lives in some 638,000 villages and the rest 27.8% in about 5,480 towns and urban agglomerations. The **birth rate** (child births per 1,000 people per year) is 22.22 births/1,000 population (2009 est.) while **death rate** (deaths per 1000 individuals per year) is 6.4 deaths/1,000 population. **Fertility rate** is 2.72 children born/woman and **Infant mortality** rate is 30.15 deaths/1,000 live births (2009 est.).

## INDIAN STATES
## (Capital, Principal Languages, Area, Density, Sex Ratio)

**Andhra Pradesh:** *Capital:* Hyderabad. *Languages:* Telugu and Urdu. *Area:* 1,60,205 sq. km. *Population:* 5,24,106,53. *Density (per sq km):* 308. *Sex Ratio:* 992.

**Arunachal Pradesh:** *Capital:* Itanagar. *Languages:* Nissi/Dafla, Adi Wancho, Monpa, Nocte, Bengali and English. *Area:* 83,743 sq. km. *Population:* 1,382,611. *Density (per sq km):* 17. *Sex Ratio:* 920.

**Assam:** *Capital:* Pragjyotishpur. *Languages*: Assamese and Bengali. *Area:* 78,438 sq. km. *Population:* 31,169,272. *Density (per sq km):* 397. *Sex Ratio:* 954.

**Bihar:** *Capital:* Patna. *Language:* Hindi. *Area:* 94,164 sq. km. *Population:* 103,804,637. *Density (per sq km):* 1102. *Sex Ratio:* 916.

**Chhattisgarh**: *Capital*: Raipur. *Language:* Hindi. *Area:* 135,191 sq. km. *Population:* 25,540,196. *Density (per sq km):* 189. *Sex Ratio:* 991.

**Goa:** *Capital:* Panaji. *Languages:* Marathi, Konkani and Gujarati. *Population:* 1,457,723. *Density (per sq km):* 394. *Sex Ratio:* 968.

**Gujarat:** *Capital:* Gandhinagar. *Language:* Gujarati. *Area:* 1,96,024 sq. km. *Population:* 60,383,628. *Density (per sq km):* 308. *Sex Ratio:* 918.

**Haryana:** *Capital:* Chandigarh. *Language:* Hindi. *Area* : 44,212 sq. km. *Population:* 25,353,081. *Density (per sq km):* 573. *Sex Ratio:* 877.

**Himachal Pradesh:** *Capital:* Shimla. *Languages:* Hindi and Pahari. *Area:* 55,673 sq. km. *Population:* 6,856,509. *Density (per sq km):* 123. *Sex Ratio:* 974.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** *Capital:* Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter). *Languages:* Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Ladakhi, Balti, Dardiro and Pahari. *Area:* 2,22,236 sq. km. (2,22,236 sq.km.—provisional geographical Area); of this 78,114 sq. km. is under illegal occupation of Pakistan and 5,180 sq.km. illegally handed over by Pakistan to China and 37,555 sq. km. under illegal occupation of China. *Population:* 12,548,926. *Density (per sq km):* 56. *Sex Ratio:* 883.

**Jharkhand:** *Capital:* Ranchi. *Language:* Hindi. *Area:* 179,714 sq. km. *Population:* 32,966,238. *Density (per sq km):* 414. *Sex Ratio:* 947.

**Karnataka:** *Capital:* Bengaluru. *Language:* Kannada. *Area:* 1,91,791 sq. km. *Population:* 61,130,704. *Density (per sq km):* 319. *Sex Ratio:* 968.

**Kerala:** *Capital:* Thiruvanthapuram. *Language:* Malayalam. *Area:* 38,863 sq. km. *Population:* 33,387,677. *Density (per sq km):* 859. *Sex Ratio:* 1084.

**Madhya Pradesh:** *Capital:* Bhopal. *Language:* Hindi. *Area:* 308,144 sq. km. *Population:* 72,597,565. *Density (per sq km):* 236. *Sex Ratio:* 930.

**Maharashtra:** *Capital:* Mumbai. *Language:* Marathi. *Area:* 3,07,690 sq. km. *Population:* 112,372,972. *Density (per sq km):* 365. *Sex Ratio:* 946.

**Manipur:** *Capital:* Imphal. *Language:* Manipuri. *Area:* 22,327 sq. km. *Population:* 2,721,756. *Density (per sq km):* 122. *Sex Ratio:* 987.

**Meghalaya:** *Capital:* Shillong. *Languages:* Khasi, Jaintia and Garo. *Area:* 22,429 sq. km. *Population:* 2,964,007. *Density (per sq km):* 132. *Sex Ratio:* 986.

**Mizoram:** *Capital:* Aizawl. *Languages:* Mizo and English. Area*:* 21,081 sq. km. Population*:* 1,091,014. *Density (per sq km):* 52. *Sex Ratio:* 975.

**Nagaland**: *Capital:* Kohima. *Languages:* Ao, Konyak, Angami, Sema and Lotha. *Area:* 16,579 sq. km. *Population:* 1,980,602. *Density (per sq km):* 119. *Sex Ratio:* 931.

**Odisha:** *Capital:* Bhubaneswar. *Language:* Odia. *Area:* 1,55,707 sq. km. *Population:* 41,947,358. *Density (per sq km):* 269. *Sex Ratio:* 978.

**Punjab:** *Capital:* Chandigarh. *Language:* Punjabi. *Area:* 50,362 sq. km. *Population:* 27,704,236. *Density (per sq km):* 550. *Sex Ratio:* 893.

**Rajasthan:** *Capital:* Jaipur. *Languages:* Rajasthani and Hindi. *Area:* 3,42,239 sq. km. *Population:* 68,621,012. *Density (per sq km):* 201. *Sex Ratio:* 926.

**Sikkim:** *Capital:* Gangtok. *Languages:* Lepcha, Bhutia, Hindi, Nepali and Limbu. *Area:* 7,096 sq. km. *Population:* 607,688. *Density (per sq km):* 86. *Sex Ratio:* 889.

**Tamil Nadu:** *Capital:* Chennai. *Language:* Tamil. *Area:* 1,30,058 sq. km. *Population:* 72,138,958. *Density (per sq km):* 555. *Sex Ratio:* 995.

**Telengana:** *Capital:* Hyderabad. *Language:* Telugu & Urdu. *Area:* 1,14,863 sq. Km. *Population:* 3,22,54,880. *Density (per sq km):* 310. Sex Ratio: 992

**Tripura**: *Capital:* Agartala. *Language:* Bengali. *Area:* 10,486 sq. km. *Population:* 3,671,032. *Density (per sq km):* 350. *Sex Ratio:* 961.

**Uttarkhand:** *Capital:* Dehradun (provisional); *Language:* Hindi, *Area:* 53,483 sq. km. *Population:* 10,116,752. *Density (per sq km):* 189. *Sex Ratio:* 963.

**Uttar Pradesh:** *Capital:* Lucknow. *Language:* Hindi. *Area:* 2,38,566 sq. km. *Population:* 199,581,477. *Density (per sq km):* 828. *Sex Ratio:* 908.

**West Bengal:** *Capital:* Kolkata. *Language*: Bengali. *Area:* 87,752 sq. km. *Population:* 91,347,736. *Density (per sq km):* 1029. *Sex Ratio:* 947.

## UNION TERRITORIES

**Andaman & Nicobar Islands:** *Capital:* Port Blair. *Languages:* Bengali, Hindi, Nicobarese, Tamil and Malayalam. *Area:* 8,249 sq. km. *Population:* 379,944. *Density (per sq km):* 46. *Sex Ratio:* 878.

**Chandigarh:** *Capital:* Chandigarh. *Languages:* Punjabi and Hindi. *Area:* 114 sq. km. *Population:* 1,054,686. *Density (per sq km):* 9252. *Sex Ratio:* 818.

**Dadra & Nagar Haveli**: *Capital:* Silvassa. *Languages:* Bhili/Bhildoli, Gujarati and Hindi. *Area:* 491 sq. km. *Population:* 342,853. *Density (per sq km):* 698. *Sex Ratio:* 775.

**Daman & Diu:** *Capital:* Daman. *Languages:* Marathi and Gujarati. *Area:* 112 sq. km. *Population:* 242,911. *Density (per sq km):* 2169. *Sex Ratio:* 618.

**Lakshadweep**: *Capital:* Kavaratti. *Language:* Malayalam. *Area:* 32 sq. km. *Population:* 64,429. *Density (per sq km):* 2013. *Sex Ratio:* 946.

*The Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi group of islands were renamed as Lakshadweep in 1973. Lakshadweep is a group of coral islands consisting of 12 atolls, three reefs and submerged sand banks. Of the 36 islands, only 11 are inhabited. These lie scattered in the Arabian Sea, about 280 km to 480 km off Kerala coast.*

**Puducherry:**  *Capital:* Puducherry. *Languages:* Tamil and French. *Area:* 492 sq. km. *Population:* 1,244,464. *Density (per sq km):* 2598. *Sex Ratio:* 1038.

## NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Delhi: *Capital:* Delhi. *Languages:* Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. *Area:* 1,483 sq. km. *Population:*16,753,235. *Density (per sq km):* 9340. *Sex Ratio:* 866.

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### SOME FACTS

*Arunachal Pradesh* has a strategic location bordering Bhutan, Myanmar and China.

*Odisha* has its longest border with Andhra Pradesh.

*Uttar Pradesh* has the highest population (16.44% of total population).

*Sikkim* has the lowest population (0.05% of total population).

Among Union Territories *Delhi* has the highest population while *Lakshadweep* has the lowest population.

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## NATIONAL FLAG

The National Flag of India is a tri-colour with three equal horizontal stripes: (*i*) saffron (*kesari*) at the top (*ii*)  white in the middle and (*iii*) dark green at the bottom. A *Chakra*—dark blue in colour and having 24 spokesis superimposed on the middle white stripe. This Emblem on the  Flag is an exact reproduction  of the *Dharma Chakra* on the capitol of Ashoka's pillar at Sarnath. The ratio of the width to length of the flag is two to three.

The National Flag of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on the 22nd July 1947, and it was presented to the nation at the midnight session of the Assembly on the 14th August 1947.

**Use of the Flag:**
 (*i*) The dipping of the Flag to any person or thing is prohibited.
 (*ii*) No other Flag or Emblem is to be placed above or to the right of the National Flag. If hung in a line, all other flags are  to be placed on the left of the National Flag. When flown or raised with other flags, the National Flag must be the highest.
(*iii*) The flag is not to be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free; when carried in a procession it is to be brone high on the right shoulder of the standard bearer and carried in front of the procession.
(*iv*) The saffron stripe should always be at the top when the Flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle  from a window, a balcony or from the front of a building.

**Controls off on Hoisting Tricolour**

The Union Cabinet decided in January 2002, that all citizens of India could hoist the Tricolour throughout the year. Earlier they could do so only on special days such as Republic Day and Independence Day.

The decision was taken as per the recommendations of the Flag committee appointed by the government following Home Ministry proposal.

But, some restrictions have been put in place to prevent deliberate insults to the national flag. Among the restrictions are ban on the following:

- Flying a damaged or dishevelled flag.
- Flying it with the saffron band at the bottom.
- Draping it over vehicles.
- Using it as a drapery at private funerals.
- Printing it on a costume, cushion, napkin, or handkerchief.
- Flying it on a vehicle unless permitted to do so by the Centre.

This means, for instance, that the Tricolour cannot be put to use by fashion designers in draping models and film stars, as it will amount to insulting the national honour.

The decision was taken in the wake of Supreme Court and Delhi High Court judgements in favour of extending this right. While the Supreme Court had observed that restrictions on flying the national flag appeared *prima facie* unsustainable, the Delhi High Court had ruled that the display of the Tricolour was part of the fundamental right to freedom of expression.

Normally, the National Flag is flown on all important Government buildings. In frontier areas, it is flown at some special points.

## NATIONAL SYMBOLS

### National Emblem and Seal

The National Emblem and Seal of the Government of India is a replica (*duplicate*) of the capitol (*top part*) of Ashoka's pillar  at Sarnath. In the original capitol of the stone pillar are carved out four lions, standing back to back with their mouths wide open.  In the emblem, however, only three lions are visible—as it appears in print—because the fourth remains hidden from view. The capitol (*top part*) is mounted on an abacus (*a flat slab or base plate*). There is a *Dharma Chakra* in the centre of the base  plate, on the right of which stands the figure of a bull and on the left that of a horse. The side-views (*only the  edges*) of the  *Dharma Chakra* of the other right and left side are visible on both ends of the base plate. The words "*Satyameva Jayate*"  are inscribed below the base plate of the Emblem in the *Devnagari script*. The words *Satyameva Jayate* are taken from the *Mundaka Upanishad*, meaning "Truth alone triumphs".

The original lioned capitol of the pillar was designed by Emperor Ashoka between 242-232 B.C. to mark the hallowed spot where Mahatma Buddha first initiated his disciples in the eight-fold path of salvation. This was adopted as the National Emblem on the 26th January 1950, by the Government of India.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

The song *Jana-gana-mana* was adopted as the National Anthem of India on 24th January 1950.

The song *Jana-gana-mana* was composed by Rabindranath Tagore and it was first published in January 1912, under the title *Bharat Vidhata* in the *Tatva-Bodhini Patrika* edited by Tagore himself. The song was translated into English by Tagore in 1919 under the title *Morning Song of India*. The complete song consists of five stanzas and only the first stanza has been adopted by the Defence Forces and is usually sung on ceremonial occasions. It reads as follows:

*Jana-gana-mana-Adhinayaka jaya he*
*Bharat-bhagya-vidhata.*
*Punjaba-Sindhu-Gujarata-Maratha-*
*Dravida-Utkala-Banga*
*Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga*
*Uchchala-jaladhi taranga*
*Tava subha name jage*
*Tava subha asisa mage*
*Gahe tava jaya-gatha.*
*Jana-gana-mangala-dayaka jaya he,*
*Bharat-bhagya-vidhata*
*Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he,*
*Jaya, jaya, jaya, jaya he.*

**Its English rendering is as under:**

*Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people,*
*Dispenser of India's destiny.*
*Thy name rouses the hearts of the Punjab, Sind,*
*Gujarat and Maratha, of the Dravid & Orissa & Bengal;*
*It echoes in the hills of Vindhyas and Himalayas,*
*Mingles in the music of Jamuna and Ganga;*
*And is chanted by the waves of the Indian Sea;*
*They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise.*
*The saving of all people waits in thy hand,*
*Thou Dispenser of India's destiny;*
*Victory, Victory, Victory to Thee.*

## NATIONAL SONG

The song *Vande Mataram* is the national song of India. It is older than *Jana-gana-mana* and was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and appeared in his novel *Anand Math* published in 1882. It was first sung at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. Its first stanza reads as under:

*Vande Mataram!*
*Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja sitalam,*
*Sasyasyamalam Mataram!*
*Subhrajyotsna-pulakitayaminim,*
*Phullakusumita-drumadala-sobhinim,*
*Suhasinim, Sumadhura-bhasinim,*
*Sukhadam, Varadam, Mataram!*

**Its English rendering by Shri Aurobindo is as under:**

*Mother, I bow to thee!*
*Rich with the hurrying streams,*
*Bright with the orchard gleams,*
*Cool with thy winds of delight.*
*Dark fields waving, Mother of might, Mother free.*
*Glory of moonlight dreams,*
*Over thy branches and lordly streams,*
*Clad in thy blossoming trees.*
*Mother, giver of ease,*
*Laughing low and sweet!*
*Mother, I kiss thy feet,*
*Speaker sweet and low!*
*Mother, to thee I bow.*

## NATIONAL CALENDAR

The two calendars most widely used in India are the Vikrama calendar, followed in Western and Northern India and Nepal, and the Shalivahana or Saka calendar which is followed in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa.

In the year 56 BC, Vikrama Samvat era was founded by the emperor Vikramaditya of Ujjain, following his victory over the Sakas. Later, in a similar fashion, Satavahana king Gautamiputra Satakarni initiated the Saka era to celebrate his victory against the Sakas in the year 78 AD.

Both the Vikrama and the Shalivahana eras are lunisolar calendars, and feature annual cycles of twelve lunar months, each month divided into two phases: the 'bright half' (Śukla Pakṣa) and the 'dark half' (Kṛṣṇa Pakṣa); these correspond respectively to the periods of the 'waxing'' and the 'waning' of the moon. Thus, the period beginning from the first day after the new moon

and ending on the full moon day constitutes the Śukla Pakṣa, ''bright part' of the month; the period beginning from the day after Pūrṇimā (the full moon) until and including the next new moon day constitutes the Kṛṣṇa Pakṣa, the 'dark part' of the month.

The names of the 12 months, as also their sequence, are the same in both calendars; however, the New Year is celebrated at separate points during the year and the "year zero" for the two calendars is different. In the Vikrama calendar, the zero year corresponds to 56 BC, while in the Shalivahana calendar, it corresponds to 78 AD. The Vikrama calendar begins with the month of Baiśākha or Vaiśākha (April), or Kartak (October/November). The Shalivahana calendar begins with the month of Chaitra (March) and the Ugadi/Gudi Padwa festivals mark the New Year.

A variant of the Shalivahana Calendar was reformed and standardized as the Indian National calendar in 1957. This official calendar follows the Shalivahan Shak calendar in beginning from the month of Chaitra and counting years with 78 AD being year zero. It features a constant number of days in every month (with leap years). *Chaitra* is the first month and *Phalguna* is the last month of the year.

The dates of this calendar permanently correspond with the Gregorian calendar Chaitra 1 falling on March 21 in a common year and March 22 in a Leap Year.

The use of the National Calendar is being implemented for the following official purposes: (1) the Gazette of India; (2) news broadcasts by All India Radio; (3) calendars issued by the Government of India; (4) communications addressed to public by the Government of India.

**Months of the National Calendar**: (1) Chaitra, (2) Vaishakha, (3) Jaishtha, (4) Ashadha, (5) Shravan, (6) Bhadra, (7) Ashvina, (8) Kartika, (9) Margashirsha, (10) Pausha, (11) Magha, (12) Phalguna.

## NATIONAL ANIMAL, BIRD, FLOWER

**National Animal of India:** Tiger (Previously it was Lion).
**National Bird of India**: Peacock.
**National Flower of India:** Lotus.

## PRINCIPAL RELIGIONS

*Places of Worship and Religious Books*
**Christianity**: Church; *Bible.*
**Hinduism**: Temple; *Vedas*; *The Bhagwad Gita; Ramayana; Mahabharata.*
**Islam**: Mosque; *Qoran.*
**Jews**: Synagogue; *Torah.*
**Sikhism**: Gurudwara; *The Granth Sahib.*
**Zoroastrianism (Parsi religion):** Fire Temple; *Zend Avesta.*

# 2
# Indian Constitution

## PREAMBLE

The Preamble of the Constitution of India prescribes that the people of the country would try to secure (i) social, economic and political justice (ii) liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship (iii) equality of status and of opportunity, and (iv) a sense of fraternity to assure the dignity of the individual and the unity of the nation.

The Constitution further guarantees certain 'Fundamental Rights' to every citizen. These are: *(i)* Right to Equality, *(ii)* Right to Freedom, *(iii)* Right against exploitation, *(iv)* Right to Freedom of Religion, *(v)* Cultural and Educational Rights, *(vi)* Right to Constitutional Remedies.

## AMENDED PREAMBLE

We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign *Socialist Secular* Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and unity and integration of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

(Words in *Italics* added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment.)

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution reflects the mind and spirit of its framers.

## SCHEDULES TO THE CONSTITUTION

There are Twelve Schedules to the Constitution.

**First Schedule** (under Articles 1 and 4) gives a list of States and Union Territories.

**Second Schedule** [under Articles 59(3), 65(3), 75(6), 97, 125, 148(3), 158(3)] consists of 5 parts, A to E.

*Part A* fixes the remuneration and emoluments payable to the President and Governors. *Part B* has been deleted by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act of 1956. *Part C* contains provisions as to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council. *Part D* contains provisions as to emoluments of the judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts. *Part E* contains provisions as to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. *Salary*: Rs 9,000 per month. (The salaries have been revised since by Amendments to the Constitution).

**Third Schedule** (under Arts. 75(4), 99, 124(6), 148(2), 164(3), 188 and 219) contains forms of *Oaths and Affirmations*.

**Fourth Schedule** [under Arts. 4(1) and (20)] allocates seats for each State and Union Territory, in the Council of States.

**Fifth Schedule** [under Art. 244(1)] provides for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas. This Schedule provides for amendment by a simple majority of Parliament and takes it out of the ambit of Art. 368 (Amendment of the Constitution).

**Sixth Schedule** [under Arts. 214(2) and 275(1)] provides for the administration of Tribal Areas in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. This is a lengthy Schedule which goes into the details of the administration in the Tribal Areas concerned. This Schedule can also be amended by a simple majority of the Parliament.

**Seventh Schedule** (under Art. 246) gives three Lists: 1. *Union List* contains 97 subjects in which the Union government has exclusive authority. 2. *State List* contains 66 subjects which are under the exclusive authority of State governments. 3. *Concurrent List* contains 47 subjects, where the Union and States have concurrent powers.
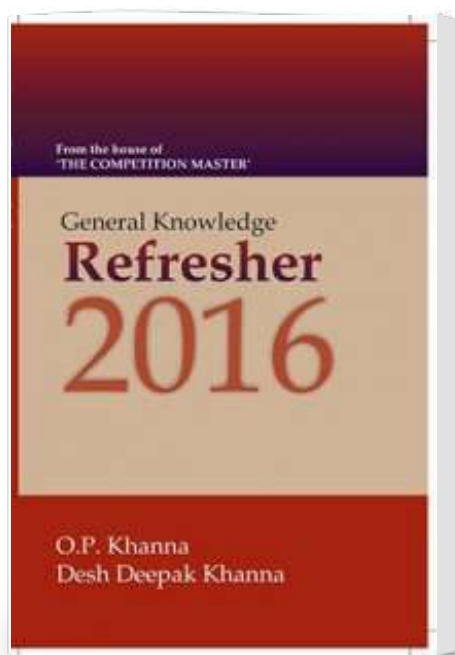
**Eighth Schedule** [Under Arts. 344(1) and 351(1)] gives a list of 18 languages recognized by the Constitution.

**Ninth Schedule** [under Art. 31(b)] was added by the Constitution (First Amendment) Act 1951. It contains Acts and orders relating to land tenures, land tax, railways, industries, etc, passed by the State governments, and the Union government which are beyond the jurisdiction of civil courts.

**Tenth Schedule** (under Articles 101, 102, 191 and 192). It contains the Anti-defection Act. *It also deals with provisions as to disqualification on ground of defection.*

**Eleventh Schedule** (under Article 243 G) mentions functional areas or subjects that are necessary for implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice in each Panchayat. To mention a few agriculture, social forestry, small scale industry, roads, rural housing, PDS,

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