

**VALUE
ADDITION
SERIES**

THE GIST OF BHARAT 2026

The Ultimate Resource for Competitive Exams

A large share of data- and fact-based questions in competitive exams is derived from the Government of India's authoritative publication BHARAT 2026



In this book, we have curated sector-wise key achievements supported by authentic data and verified facts, along with additional insights and important current developments.

The Gist of **BHARAT 2026**

- The Ultimate Resource for Competitive Exams

A large share of data- and fact-based questions in competitive exams is derived from the Government of India's authoritative publication BHARAT 2026

In this book, we have curated sector-wise key achievements supported by authentic data and verified facts, along with additional insights and important current developments.

Editor

N.N. Ojha

Compiled by

Chronicle Editorial Team



CONTENTS

• India: The Land & People.....	1
• National Symbols	8
• Political Structure	10
• Defence	27
• Law & Justice.....	29
• India & the World.....	30
• Basic Economic Data	38
• Finance.....	39
• Corporate Affairs	44
• Commerce.....	47
• Industry.....	49
• Labor, Skill Development, and Employment.....	55
• Health & Family Welfare	58
• Education	63
• Welfare	68
• Agriculture.....	77
• Food, Civil Supplies, & Consumer Affairs	85
• Planning	93
• Rural Development	97
• Housing & Urban Affairs	103
• Transport	109

- **Energy 117**
- **Water Resources..... 121**
- **Environment.....126**
- **Communications & Information Technology133**
- **Mass Communication 137**
- **Culture & Tourism..... 140**
- **Development in Science & Technology 142**
- **Youth Affairs & Sports 149**
- **States and Union Territories 150**



BHARAT 2026 GIST

India: The Land & People

India: Geographical Location and Extent

- **Total Area:** 3,287,263 square kilometers.
- **Global Rank:** 7th in area and 2nd in population.
- **Latitudinal Extent:** 8°4' North to 37°6' North.
- **Longitudinal Extent:** 68°7' East to 97°25' East.
- **Length (North to South):** 3,214 kilometers.
- **Width (East to West):** 2,933 kilometers.
- **Hemisphere:** India is situated entirely in the Northern Hemisphere.

Boundaries and Coastline

- **Land Boundary Length:** Approximately 15,200 kilometers.
- **Total Coastline (including islands):** 7,516.6 kilometers.
- **Neighboring Countries:**
 - **North-West:** Pakistan, Afghanistan.
 - **North:** China, Nepal, Bhutan.
 - **East:** Bangladesh, Myanmar.
- **Maritime Separation:** The Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar separate India from Sri Lanka.

Administrative Structure

- **Total States and Union Territories:** 28 States and 8 Union Territories.
- **New Merger:** The merger of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu took place on January 26, 2020.
- **New Division:** The state of Jammu and Kashmir has been divided into two Union Territories (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh).

Physical Geography (Physical Division)

Major Divisions: Himalayan region, Indo-Gangetic plains, Desert, and Southern Peninsula.

The Himalayan Range

- **Length:** 2,400 kilometers.
- **Width:** 240 to 320 kilometers.
- **Major Passes (Tibet routes):** Jelep La and Nathu La (Chumbi Valley).

Indo-Gangetic Plains

- **Formation:** Formed by the alluvial soil brought by the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra rivers.
- **Slope Characteristics:** Between Delhi (Yamuna) and the Bay of Bengal, there is a slope of only 200 meters over a distance of 1,600 km.

Desert Region

- **Great Desert:** Extending from the Rann of Kutch to the Luni River.
- **Little Desert:** Extending from the Luni River towards the north-west between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur.

Peninsular Plateau and Mountain Ranges

- **Major Ranges:** Aravalli, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikal, and Ajanta.
- **Western Ghats:** Average height 915 to 1,220 meters (a narrow strip near the Arabian Sea).
- **Eastern Ghats:** Average height 610 meters (broad coast near the Bay of Bengal).
- **Meeting Point:** The Eastern and Western Ghats meet at the Nilgiri Hills.
- **Cardamom Hills:** Located south of the Nilgiris, these are an extension of the Western Ghats.

KEY FACTS

- ♦ **Conical Shape:** South of the Tropic of Cancer, mainland India tapers (becomes conical) towards the Indian Ocean.
- ♦ **North-Eastern Hills:** The Mizo and Rakhine ranges connect with the Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, and Naga hills.
- ♦ **Major Valleys:** The valleys of Kashmir and Kullu are known for their fertility and beauty.

Geological Structure

Geological Classification of India

The Indian subcontinent is primarily divided into three geological regions:

- (i) **Extra-Peninsular Region:** The Himalayan mountain range.
- (ii) **Indo-Gangetic Plains:** The region between the Himalayas and the Peninsula.
- (iii) **Peninsular Region:** The plateau region of the South.

Origin of the Himalayas and the Tethys Sea

- **Plate Tectonics:** India's current form is the result of a collision between the Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate approximately 40–50 million years ago.
- **Ancient Ocean:** Before the formation of the Himalayas, a vast ocean called 'Tethys' was located at that site.
- **Sensitivity:** The Himalayan region is still geologically unstable, making it highly sensitive to seismic (earthquake) activities.

Peninsular India

- **Shape:** It is in the shape of an inverted triangle.
- **Antiquity:** This is the oldest and most stable part of India, where rocks as old as 3.8 giga-annum (3.8 billion years) are found.
- **Significance:** It is called the 'storehouse of economic minerals.'

Major Geological Formations (Gondwana & Deccan Trap)

- **Gondwana Supergroup:** Most of India's coal deposits are found in this formation.
- **Deccan Trap:**
 - ✓ Formed at the end of the Cretaceous period.
 - ✓ Created by massive volcanic eruptions and lava flows.

Indo-Gangetic Plains

- **Age:** This is geologically the youngest part of India.
- **Formation:** It was formed by the continuous deposition of alluvium carried by Himalayan and Peninsular rivers.

Stability and Safety

- **Peninsular Region:** Geologically relatively stable, making the probability of major earthquakes lower compared to the Himalayas.
- **Himalayas:** Being a Fold Mountain and located on the boundary of plate collision, it is unstable.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ **Oldest part of India** - Peninsular Plateau.
- ◆ **Newest part of India** - Indo-Gangetic Plains.
- ◆ **In which group of rocks is coal found?** - Gondwana Supergroup.
- ◆ **How was the Deccan Trap formed?** - Through the flow of volcanic lava.
- ◆ **What existed before the Himalayas?** - Tethys Sea.

River Systems of India

Classification of River Systems

India's rivers are divided into four groups:

- (i) **Himalayan Rivers:** Perennial (flow year-round), formed by glaciers, prone to flooding during monsoons.
- (ii) **Southern (Peninsular) Rivers:** Dependent on rain, non-perennial.
- (iii) **Coastal Rivers:** Rivers on the west coast are short and have limited catchment areas.
- (iv) **Inland Rivers:** Do not reach the sea; they disappear in desert regions.

Major Himalayan River Systems

- **Indus River:** Originates in Tibet (Manasarovar Lake). Tributaries: Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, and Jhelum.
- **Ganga River**
 - ✓ Formed by the confluence of Bhagirathi and Alaknanda at Devprayag.
 - ✓ **Flowing States:** Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
 - ✓ **Tributaries:** Yamuna, Ramganga, Ghaghra, Gandak, Kosi, Mahananda, and Son.
 - ✓ **Sub-tributaries of Yamuna:** Chambal and Betwa.
- **Brahmaputra River:**
 - ✓ **Name in Tibet:** Tsangpo
 - ✓ **Name upon entering India (Arunachal):** Dihang
 - ✓ Joined by Dibang and Lohit rivers near Pasighat.
 - ✓ **Tributaries:** Subansiri, Jia Bhareli, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Pagladiya, and Manas
 - ✓ The Teesta River joins the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh.
- **Barak River:** Originates from the Manipur hills and joins the Ganga-Brahmaputra in Bangladesh.

Rivers of Peninsular (Southern) India

- **East-flowing (falling into the Bay of Bengal):** Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Mahanadi.
 - ✓ **Godavari:** Second largest river basin (covering 10% of India's area).
 - ✓ **Krishna:** Second largest peninsular valley after Godavari.

KEY FACTS

River Ganga

- ◆ **Ganga's Slope:** Over a 1,600 km distance from Yamuna (Delhi) to the Bay of Bengal, the slope is only 200 meters. This is why this region is one of the most densely populated in the world.
- ◆ **River Ganga's Name in Bangladesh:** The distributary of the Ganga is called the Padma in Bangladesh.

Combined Basins

- ◆ Subarnarekha Basin (Subarnarekha + Baitarani).
- ◆ Rivers from Tapti to Tadri.
- ◆ Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari.
- ◆ Desert inland drainage area of Rajasthan.

Himalayan Passes

- ◆ Passes like Jelep La, Nathu La, and Shipki La are important for trade and travel across the Himalayas.

4 ■ BHARAT 2026

- **West-flowing (falling into the Arabian Sea):** Narmada and Tapti (major).
- **Rivers Flowing into the West Coast:** 600

Inland Drainage

- These rivers do not reach the sea; they either fall into lakes or disappear into the sand.
- **Major Rivers:** Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, and Ghaggar.
- **Luni River:** The main river of western Rajasthan, disappears in the Rann of Kutch.

Classification of River Basins (Statistical Facts)

Total Basin Groups: 20

- **12 Major River Basins:** (Each with a catchment area $> 20,000$ sq km). **Names:** Indus, Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Mahanadi, Pennar, Brahmani-Vaitarani, Sabarmati, Mahi, Narmada, and Tapti.
- **8 Combined River Basins:** Groups of medium ($2,000$ – $20,000$ sq km) and minor ($< 2,000$ sq km) rivers.

Climate & Seasons

Factors affecting Indian Climate

- **Major Factors:** The Oceans, the Himalayan Mountain Range, and the Thar Desert.
- **Role of the Himalayas:**
 - ✓ Blocks the cold and dry winds from Central Asia during winter.
 - ✓ Acts as a barrier to the South-West Monsoon, causing rainfall in North India.
- **Maritime Influence:** Peninsular India is surrounded by the sea on three sides, resulting in a **Maritime Climate** (where temperature fluctuations are not extreme).
- **Continental Climate:** Due to the distance from the sea, North India experiences extreme heat in summer and extreme cold in winter.

Major Seasons of India (According to IMD)

1. **Winter:** January to February (December to March in North India).
2. **Summer (Pre-monsoon):** March to May.
3. **South-West Monsoon:** June to September.
4. **North-East Monsoon / Retreating Monsoon:** October to December.

South-West Monsoon (Main Rainy Season)

- **Onset:** Usually June 1st on the Kerala coast.
- Ahead of this mainland arrival, the monsoon winds begin in the Bay of Bengal region, typically striking the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in late May.
- **Duration:**
 - ✓ **In Western Rajasthan:** Less than 75 days.
 - ✓ **In South-Western Peninsula:** More than 120 days.
- **Average Rainfall:** 868.6 mm (based on data from 1971–2020).

Cyclones and Natural Hazards

- **Origin Points:** Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.
- **Nature:** Cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean are **Bimodal** (peaking twice a year).
- **Peak Probability:** Post-monsoon (October–December) and Pre-monsoon (March–May).
- **Forecasting:** Conducted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Local Weather Phenomena

- **Norwesters:** Fierce storms occurring in Eastern and North-Eastern India.

- **Kal Baisakhi:** Local name for Norwesters (mainly in West Bengal and Assam).
- **Dust Storms:** A characteristic of the dry plains of North-Western India during summer.
- **Hailstorms:** Major events associated with thunderstorms during the summer (Pre-monsoon).

Temperature Facts

- **Coldest Months:** December and January are the coldest months in North India.
- **Minimum Temperature:** In winter, temperatures in North-Western regions can drop to -7.7°C .
- **Temperature Gradient:** During winter, temperature increases as one moves south toward the Equator.

KEY FACTS

- ♦ Most of India's rainfall is received from the South-West Monsoon.
- ♦ Which state is **Kal Baisakhi** associated with? - **West Bengal**.
- ♦ Where does the monsoon start first in India? - **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** (before the mainland).
- ♦ What causes winter rain in North India? - The blocking of monsoon winds by the Himalayas and cyclonic activities.

Flora (Vegetation)

Phytogeographical Classification

- **Total Regions:** India is divided into 11 Phytogeographical Regions.
- **Survey Body:** Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Headquartered in Kolkata.
- **Major Publications:** 'Flora of India' and 'State Floras'.

Himalayan Vegetation

- **North-West Himalayas:** From Jammu & Kashmir to Uttarakhand (Kumaon). Diversity ranges from Tropical to Alpine.
- **Major Trees:** Sal (in lower reaches), Deodar, Pine, Blue Pine, Silver Fir.
- **Eastern Himalayas:** From Sikkim to Arunachal Pradesh. Compared to the Western Himalayas, tree height is lower and snowfall is less.
- **Major Trees:** Oak, Maple, Rhododendron (Burush), Alder, and Birch (Bhoj Patra).

Plains and Arid Regions

- **Indo-Gangetic Plains:** From Punjab to West Bengal. Rich in alluvial soil. Species found include Sal forests, Acacia (Babool), and Butea.
- **Arid Zone:** Western Rajasthan, Gujarat (Kutch), South-West Punjab. Characterized by thorny desert vegetation.
- **Central India:** Primarily features Tropical Deciduous and thorny forests (e.g., Kikar, Anogeissus).

Ghats and Coastal Vegetation

- **Western Ghats:**
 - ✓ **Northern Part:** Laterite plateau and Estuarine (Mangrove) vegetation.
 - ✓ **Southern Part:** Home to '**Shola**' forests (Temperate montane forests).
- **Eastern Ghats:** From the Mahanadi Delta to Kanyakumari. A mix of evergreen and dry shrubs.
- **Mangroves:** Found on coasts and river estuaries. Major species: Rhizophora, Avicennia, and Sonneratia.

Archipelagos (Andaman and Nicobar)

- Abundant in Tropical Evergreen and Mangrove forests.
- **Comparison:** Andaman flora resembles Myanmar's, while Nicobar flora is similar to Malaysian vegetation.
- High number of **Endemic species** (found nowhere else).

Medicinal Plants and Conservation

- **Medicinal Plants:** Over 7,000 medicinal plants documented in India. 960 species are in the 'Commercial' category.
- **Endangered Species:** More than 1,500 plant species are endangered.
- **Legal Provisions:** Threatened species are declared and protected under Section 38 of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- **Ethnobotany:** The study of the relationship between plants and humans.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ Where are **Shola forests** found? - **South-Western Ghats** (Nilgiris, etc.).
- ◆ **Sal:** Principal tree of which regions? - **Terai of NW Himalayas and Indo-Gangetic plains.**
- ◆ Where is the **Birch (Bhoj)** tree found? - **Eastern Himalayan region.**
- ◆ **Function of BSI:** Surveying and documenting the flora of India.

Faunal Resources (Animal Life)

Major Institutions and General Statistics

- **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI):** Established 109 years ago, Headquartered in Kolkata, with 16 regional centers.
- **Total Animal Species:** 104,561 species documented in India to date.
- **Conservation:** 3,739 species are protected under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **New Discoveries:** Approximately 500 to 600 new species are discovered in India every year.
- **Protected Areas (PA):** Total 1,022 PAs in India, covering 5.43% of the total geographical area.

Biogeographic Classification

- **Realms:** India falls into two major realms: **Palaearctic** and **Indo-Malayan**.
- **Biomes:** Three main biomes: Tropical Humid Forests, Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests, and Warm Deserts.
- **Biogeographic Zones:** The Indian landmass is classified into **10 zones**.
- **Highest Diversity:** The Himalayan region records the highest number of species (30,377).

Marine and Aquatic Biodiversity

- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** India's EEZ is 2.37 million sq km (ranked 18th in the world).
- **Marine Species:** 20,444 marine species are found in the Indian Ocean region within India.
- **Mangrove Ecosystem:** Inhabited by 5,747 animal species.
- **Ramsar Sites (Wetlands):** There are **100 Ramsar sites** in India.

Global Biodiversity Hotspots and Reserves

- **Biodiversity Hotspots:** India shares 4 of the world's 35 hotspots:
 - (i) Himalayas
 - (ii) Indo-Burma
 - (iii) Sundaland
 - (iv) Western Ghats-Sri Lanka.
- **Biosphere Reserves:** There are 18 designated Biosphere Reserves in India under UNESCO.
- **Sundarbans:** 2,626 species of animals are recorded here.

Specific Species Conservation and Technology

- **Turtle Tagging Program**
 - ✓ **Olive Ridley:** On the Odisha coast (famous for mass nesting called '**Arribada**').
 - ✓ **Leatherback:** On Great Nicobar Island (the world's largest sea turtle).

- **Genetic Studies:** ZSI uses **non-invasive** genetic techniques (hair or fecal samples).
✓ **Species studied:** Arunachal Macaque, Barking Deer (Muntjak), Chinese Pangolin, and 37 other mammals.
- **Climate Change Monitoring:** Permanent monitoring center established in the Dehang-Debang Biosphere Reserve (Arunachal Pradesh).
- **Threatened Species:** 7,076 Indian animal species are included in the **IUCN Red List**.

KEY FACTS

- ♦ ZSI Headquarter - **Kolkata**.
- ♦ How many Biosphere Reserves in India? - **18**
- ♦ What is 'Arribada' related to? - **Mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles**
- ♦ India's largest sea turtle - **Leatherback**
- ♦ How many Biodiversity Hotspots in India? - **4**
- ♦ What percentage of the country is covered by Protected Areas? - **5.43%**

Demography

Census: History and General Statistics

- **First Census:** Conducted in 1872.
- **2011 Census:** This was the 15th Census of India. (The 2021 Census was postponed due to COVID-19).
- **Total Population (2011):** 121.09 crore (**Males:** 62.33 crore; **Females:** 58.76 crore).
- **Global Position:** India possesses only 2.4% of the world's land area but is home to 17.7% of the world's population.
- **Decadal Growth Rate (2001–2011):** 17.7%.
- **Rural vs. Urban:** Rural population is 68.9%; Urban population is 31.1%.

Population Density

- **Average Density of India (2011):** 382 persons per sq km (Estimated to reach 462 by 2036).
- **State with Highest Density:** Bihar (1,106), followed by West Bengal (1,028) and Kerala (860).
- **Union Territory with Highest Density:** Delhi (11,320), followed by Chandigarh (9,258).

Sex Ratio

- **Total Sex Ratio (2011):** 943 (females per 1,000 males). This improved compared to 2001 (933).
- **Child Sex Ratio (0–6 years):** 919. This has declined compared to 2001 (927), which is a matter of concern.
- **Future Projection:** The sex ratio is likely to reach 957 by 2036.

Literacy Rate

- **Definition:** A person aged 7 years or above who can read and write in any language.
- **Total Literacy of India (2011):** 73% (**Males:** 80.9%; **Females:** 64.6%).
- **Most Literate State:** Kerala (94%).
- **Second Most Literate (UT):** Lakshadweep (91.8%).
- **Least Literate State:** Bihar (61.8%).
- **Latest Estimate (PLFS 2020–21):** India's literacy rate is estimated at 79.7%.

Migration

- **Total Migrants (2011):** 455.8 million.
- **Migration Rate (PLFS 2020–21):** 28.9%.
- **Migration for Employment:** Only 10.8% of total migrants move for employment-related reasons.

Health and Fertility Indicators (NFHS-5/2020 Data)

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** India has achieved a TFR of 2.0, which is lower than the Replacement Level (2.1). (This indicates that the population is moving toward stability).
- **Crude Birth Rate (CBR):** 19.5 (per 1,000 persons).
- **Crude Death Rate (CDR):** 6.0 (per 1,000 persons).
- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** Reduced from 47 in 2010 to 28 in 2020 (an indicator of improved healthcare services).

KEY FACTS

- ◆ **What is the Replacement Level?** - A fertility rate of 2.1.
- ◆ **Where was a decline recorded in the sex ratio?** - In the Child Sex Ratio (0–6 years).
- ◆ **Key demographic feature of Bihar:** Highest population density and lowest literacy rate.
- ◆ **Achievement of Kerala:** Highest literacy and female literacy rates.
- ◆ **Population Projection:** India's population is estimated to be 152.2 crore (1,522.3 million) by 2036.

National Symbols

National Flag (Tiranga)

- **Colors and Order:** Saffron at the top, White in the middle, and Dark Green at the bottom.
- **Symbolism:** Saffron (courage and sacrifice), White (peace and truth), Green (prosperity).
- **Ratio:** The ratio of length to width is **3:2**.
- **Ashoka Chakra:**
 - ✓ **Color:** Navy Blue.
 - ✓ **Position:** In the center of the white band.
 - ✓ **Spokes:** 24 (symbolizing Dharma/law and 24 hours of continuous progress).
 - ✓ **Source:** The Lion Capital of Emperor Ashoka at Sarnath.
- **Adoption:** Adopted by the Constituent Assembly on **July 22, 1947**.
- **Designer:** Pingali Venkayya (Presented by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru).
- **Important Laws:**
 - ✓ Flag Code of India, 2002 (Effective from January 26, 2002).
 - ✓ Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
 - ✓ Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950.

DAY & NIGHT FLYING OF THE NATIONAL FLAG & MATERIALS OF PREPARATION

An amendment to Flag Code of India, 2002 allows the flag to be flown day and night on open premises, as long as it is hoisted and lowered respectfully. Further, flags can now be made of polyester or machine-made materials which were previously permitted only to use flags made of hand-spun and hand-woven khadi.

National Emblem

- **Source:** The Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath.
- **Structure:** The original capital is carved out of a single block of polished sandstone.
- **Visible Figures:** Three lions are visible in the emblem (there are four in total).
- **The Abacus:**
 - ✓ A **Dharma Chakra** in the center.
 - ✓ A **Bull** on the right-representing hard work and steadfastness.
 - ✓ A **Horse** on the left-representing power and speed.

- **National Motto: ‘Satyameva Jayate’.**
 - ✓ **Source:** Mundaka Upanishad.
 - ✓ **Script:** Devanagari.
 - ✓ **Meaning:** ‘Truth alone triumphs’.
- **Adoption:** Adopted by the Government of India on **January 26, 1950**.
- **Excluded Part:** The ‘bell-shaped inverted lotus’ at the base of the original pillar is not included in the emblem.
- **Legal Regulation:** State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.

KEY FACTS	
Subject	Fact
Flag Ratio	3 : 2
Flag Adopted	July 22, 1947
Emblem Adopted	January 26, 1950
Source of Satyameva Jayate	Mundaka Upanishad
Spokes in Ashoka Chakra	24
Animals in Emblem (Visible)	Lion, Horse, and Bull
Flag Code Effective Date	January 26, 2002

National Anthem

- **Name:** ‘Jana-Gana-Mana’.
- **Composer:** Rabindranath Tagore.
- **Original Language:** Bengali.
- **English Translation:** Translated by Rabindranath Tagore himself, titled ‘Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people’.
- **Official Adoption:** The Constituent Assembly adopted its Hindi version on **January 24, 1950**.
- **First Singing:** First sung on December 27, 1911, at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress.
- **Duration:**
 - ✓ **Full Version:** Approximately 52 seconds.
 - ✓ **Short Version:** Sung on special occasions (first and last lines only), lasting about 20 seconds.
- **Stanzas:** The original poem has 5 stanzas, but only the **first stanza** is recognized as the National Anthem.

Geographical and Cultural Description

- ✓ **Regions Mentioned:** Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat, Maratha, Dravida (South India), Utkala (Odisha), and Bengal.
- ✓ **Mountains and Rivers:** Vindhya and Himachal ranges; Yamuna and Ganga rivers.
- ✓ **Ocean Description:** The phrase ‘Uchchhala-Jaladhi-Taranga’ refers to the waves of the Indian Ocean.
- **Symbolic Meaning:** ‘Bhagya Vidhata’ refers to the ‘Dispenser of Destiny/Ruler of the people’. It symbolizes India’s national identity, unity, and geographical diversity.

KEY FACTS

- ♦ **Adopted by Constituent Assembly:** January 24, 1950
- ♦ **First sung when and where?** 1911, Congress Calcutta Session
- ♦ **Full singing time:** 52 seconds
- ♦ **Short singing time:** 20 seconds
- ♦ **Number of stanzas included:** Only the first stanza
- ♦ **Modern meaning of ‘Utkala’:** Odisha

National Song

- **Name:** ‘Vande Mataram’
- **Composer:** Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
- **Original Language:** Sanskrit
- **Source:** Taken from Bankim Chandra Chatterjee’s novel ‘**Anandamath**’ (1882).
- **Status:** It has a status equal to ‘Jana-Gana-Mana’ (National Anthem).
- **First Singing:** First sung at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.
- **English Translation (Prose):** Rendered by Sri Aurobindo.
- **Parliamentary Tradition:** Parliamentary proceedings conclude with ‘Vande Mataram’ (they begin with ‘Jana-Gana-Mana’).
- **Meaning:** ‘Mother, I bow to thee’.

National Calendar

- **Basis:** Shaka Era
- **First Month:** Chaitra
- **Adoption:** Adopted for official purposes on **March 22, 1957**.
- **Usage:** Gazette of India, All India Radio (AIR) news, government calendars, and official communications.
- **Date Correlation:** 1st Chaitra usually falls on March 22, and on March 21 during a leap year (Adhivars).

National Animal

- **Name:** Tiger.
- **Scientific Name:** *Panthera tigris*
- **Re-notification:** Re-notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2011.
- **Significance:** Symbol of wildlife conservation and the strength of India.

National Bird

- **Name:** Peacock
- **Scientific Name:** *Pavo cristatus*
- **Re-notification:** Re-notified in 2011
- **Significance:** Granted national status due to its beauty and rich biodiversity.

KEY FACTS		
National Symbol	Key Details	Important Fact
National Song	Vande Mataram	Taken from the novel ‘Anandamath’
Composer	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee	First sung in 1896 (Congress Session)
Calendar	Shaka Era	First Month: Chaitra (starts March 22)
Calendar Adoption	March 22, 1957	Official calendar for government work
National Animal	Tiger	Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris</i>
National Bird	Peacock	Scientific Name: <i>Pavo cristatus</i>

Political Structure

Nature of the Indian State

- **Constitutional Status:** India is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.
- **Meaning of Republic:** The Head of State (President) is elected, not hereditary.
- **System of Governance:** India has adopted a Parliamentary system of government.