INDIA AT A GLANCE

AREA

India covers an area of 12,66,900 square miles. It has a land frontier of 9,309 miles long and a coast line of 3,535 miles. It is approximately thirteen times as large as United Kingdom, eight times the size of Japan and a seventh of U.S.S.R. It is the seventh largest country in the world. It extends about 2,000 miles from north to south and about 1,500 miles from east to west. Its triangular peninsula juts into the Indian Ocean and is bounded on the south-west by the Arabian Sea and on the south-east by the Bay of Bengal. India is bordered on the north-west by West Pakistan and on the north-east by China, Burma, East Pakistan, Nepal and Tibet. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands in the Arabian Sea are parts of India.

PHYSICAL DIVISION

India is divided into three main topographical areas.

1. The Himalayan region (Mountain wall).
2. The Indo-Gangetic plains (the Plains).
3. The Deccan or Peninsula of the south (Peninsular region).

The Himalayan region extends across the northern border from Kashmir to the Burma frontier. The Himalayas comprise a system of stupendous fold-mountain ranges, some of them the loftiest in the world; extending in the shape of a scimitar with its edge facing southward. This region runs for 1,500 miles from the eastern extremity of Assam to the western limits of Kashmir with a breadth varying from 150 to 200 miles. South of the mountains are the Indo-Gangetic plains. They are about 1,500 miles long, east to west, and from 150 to 200 miles broad. The plains are broken by intermittent low-lying mountain ranges and are watered by India's three main rivers—the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Jamuna—which flow southward from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. The peninsular region is a table land and lies within the tropics. It is bounded on the three sides by mountains—on the north by the Vindhya and Satpura ranges, on the west by the Western Ghats, on the east by the Eastern Ghats. Two coastal strips of flat land exist on the outer side of both Western and Eastern Ghats—the western coastal strip is known as the Konkan in the north and Malabar in the south, the eastern coastal strip is known as Coromandel Coast. This peninsular region is traversed by the rivers Narmada and Tapti which flow into Arabian Sea and Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri which flow into Bay of Bengal.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

India has a great diversity of climatic conditions. Lying largely within the tropics and with the great Asiatic continent to the north,
and the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean to the South, the climate of India is essentially the tropical monsoon type. The average annual rainfall in India is 42 inches. The areas of certain rainfall are West Bengal, Assam, West Malabar Coast, western slopes of the Ghats and the upper valley of the Narmada. The zones of uncertain rainfall are Uttar Pradesh, Western and Northern Rajasthan, Central Rajasthan bordering on the U. P. and large part of Bombay. As tropical monsoon climate prevails in most of the country, changes in the time or nature of the monsoons can vitally affect the Indian economy. There are two monsoon seasons. The south-west monsoon from June through September is the most important. It brings heavy rainfall to most of the country but only light showers in the central and eastern parts of the peninsula. The monsoon’s direction reverses in November blowing from north-east through February. The north-east monsoon provides the heaviest rainfall of the year to the south-eastern areas but dry weather everywhere. The climate is everywhere dominated by the seasonal rhythm of the monsoons and about 85 per cent of the rain comes from the south-west monsoon between June and October.

The temperature in the north ranges from a mean of about 40 degrees in January to 115 degrees in May. There is a cool winter season from November through February, a hot summer period from March through June and a humid rainy season from July through October. The plains are hot throughout most of the year. The temperature of the plateau is also hot and fairly constant, although the temperature and humidity are somewhat lower than the plains.

We can divide the country into four zones according to rainfall:

(1) Wet zone, where minimum rainfall is 100 inches. This includes West Bengal, Assam and Western coast strips. (2) Intermediate zone (zone of moderate rainfall): it includes portions of Central India, Himalayas to Godavari river, east-coast of the peninsula and eastern side of the Western Ghat and up to Baroda, where rainfall is between 40 inches and 80 inches. (3) Dry zone, where rainfall is less than 40 inches. (4) Desert zone, where rainfall is less than 20 inches, i.e., Rajasthani and East Punjab.

SOIL OF INDIA

About 35 per cent of the land area is fertile, well-watered and under cultivation. 20 to 25 per cent is left fallow or is waste land which can be brought under cultivation. Forests cover some 15 per cent of the land area. The remainder consists of deserts, semi-deserts and mountain ranges.

Indian soil may be mainly classified under four different heads, namely, (1) alluvial soil, (2) black soil, (3) red soil and (4) laterite soil.

The alluvial soil is the most important soil and is formed by the silts brought by the rivers every year and deposited on their banks. It is very fertile and covers greater part of the northern India between the foot of the Himalayas and the northern slopes of the Vindhya and extends in a narrow fringe round the coastline of the
INDIA AT A GLANCE

peninsula. Territorially they occupy Punjab, Uttar-Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, parts of Assam and Orissa and also the coastal regions of Southern India. The whole of the Indo-Gangetic plain is comprised in this area.

Red soils cover the whole of Madras, Mysore and south-east Bombay, east of Hyderabad and Madhya Pradesh to Orissa and Chota Nagpur. Northwards the red soil extends into greater part of Santhal Parganas and the Birbhum district of West Bengal, the Mirzapur, Jhansi and Hamirpur districts of the Uttar Pradesh, the Baghelkhand States of Central India, the Aravalis and the eastern half of Rajasthan.

Black soil or black cotton soil is formed by the lava of volcanic eruptions and is very suitable for cotton cultivation. The black soil covers greater part of Bombay and Saurashtra, western part of Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat and Hyderabad and some parts of Madras State. Black cotton soil is exceedingly compact and tenacious and sticky when wet. The water-holding capacity of this soil is good. Cotton, jawar, wheat, linseed and gram are cultivated in these areas and the soil is rich in iron and aluminium but very poor in organic matter and other plant nutrients.

Laterite soil is derived by the atmospheric weathering of several types of rocks under monsoon conditions of alternating dry and wet periods. This soil is found on the summits of the hills of the Deccan, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh and of the Rajmahal and Eastern Ghats and certain parts of Orissa, Bombay, Malabar and Assam.

LANGUAGES

According to the census of 1951, the total languages or dialects in India are 545 including 720 Indian languages spoken by less than a lakh persons each and 63 non-Indian languages. Some 32.4 crores or 41 per cent of the population speak one of 14 languages specified in the Constitution. This multiplicity of languages need not dismay any one, because only 12 are of major importance. Hindi, the national language, is spoken by the largest number of people. English is used in Government notices and correspondence and is widely understood in Government and business circles. The Constitution of India provides that English is to continue to be used for official purposes at least until 1965, but eventually Hindi in Devanagri script is to become the official language of record.

RIVER SYSTEMS

(1) Rivers of Northern India—These Himalayan rivers rise in the mountain wall or beyond it. The rivers are fed with waters from the gradual melting of snow. They do not depend entirely for their waters on the monsoon rains. The Himalayan rivers have a flow throughout the year.

The three greater river systems of northern India are:—(a) Indus river with its three tributaries Ravi, Beas and Sutlej, waters the Punjab. (b) The Ganges with a course of fifteen hundred miles, drains Himalaya’s southern slopes and with its tributaries, Jamuna,
**HINDUSTAN YEAR-BOOK**

_Gogra, Gondak, Chambal, Kosi, Sone_, enter Bay of Bengal through extensive deltas with multitude of channels; (c) _The Brahmaputra_ flows down through Tibet, Assam and East Pakistan and discharges its floods after a course of sixteen hundred eighty miles into Bay of Bengal.

(2) **Rivers of Peninsular India**—They are quite different from the rivers of the northern India. They rise in the hills of the plateau and they are fed only by monsoon rains. The rivers rise near Western Ghats, and flow towards Bay of Bengal. The most important are _Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna_ and _Kaveri_. In the north of the plateau, two important rivers, _the Narmada and the Tapti_, flow westwards.

**PORTS**

India has very few natural harbours, because it is broken by very few inlets of the sea; the sea round the coast is very shallow and the shores are usually flat and sandy. Except Bombay, Okha and Cochin, all other ports in Western India coast are virtually inaccessible during the monsoon. The eastern coast of India is surf-bound and has no natural harbour, excepting Visakhapatnam. Calcutta is about 90 miles from the sea and the formation of sand banks in the Hooghly has made Calcutta a dangerous port.

Six ‘major’ ports of India are—Calcutta, Visakhapatnam, Madras, Cochin, Bombay, Kandla.

The principal ports of India are Bedi Bunder, Okha, Porbandar, Surat, Kandla, Bombay, Marmugao, Mangalore, Calicut, Cochin, Alleppey, Quilon, Tuticorin, Dhanushkodi, Negapatam, Karikal, Cuddalore, Pondicherry, Madras, Masulipatam, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Calcutta. The number of ports notified as open for traffic on the whole coast of India under Indian Ports Act 1908 is 226. Practically all the India’s foreign trade is channelled through one of the six main ports which are under Central Government supervision.

**PEOPLE**

According to the 1951 census, India has a population of 35,66,79,394 of whom only 17.3 per cent live in cities and towns, while 82.7 per cent live in villages. The rate of population increase is around 1 per cent a year. The life expectancy is only 32 years, due in large part to the high death rate among infants.

India has 947 females for every 1,000 males. The number of males thus exceeds that of the females in all states except Orissa, Manipur, Madras, Travancore-Cochin and Kutch. The average density of population in India is 312 per square mile.

The classification of population according to means of livelihood shows that 70 per cent of the people of the country depend on agriculture and 30 per cent live by non-agricultural professions. Out of 100 Indians, 47 are mainly peasant-proprietors, 9 mainly tenants, 13 landless labourers, one a landlord or rentier, while 10 are engaged in industries or other non-agricultural productions, 6 in commerce, 2 in transport and 12 in services & miscellaneous professions.
INDIA AT A GLANCE

Of the total population of the country, only 5.2 crores or 17.3 per cent live in cities and towns, while the remaining 29.5 crores or 82.7 per cent live in villages. There are 3,018 towns and 5,58,089 villages in India. 73 cities in India have a population of one lakh and over.

RELIGION

The population of India according to religion is as follows—Hindus 3,032 lakhs, 85 per cent; Muslims 354 lakhs, 9.92 per cent; Christians 82 lakhs, 2.30 per cent; Sikhs 62 lakhs, 1.74 per cent; Jains 16 lakhs, 0.45 per cent; Buddhist 2 lakhs, 0.06 per cent; Zoroastrians 1 lakh, 0.03 per cent; other religions (tribal) 17 lakhs, 0.47 per cent; other religions (non-tribal) 1 lakh, 0.03 per cent. Total 3,567 lakhs.

INDIAN RACES

During the British period the first official enumeration of the people of India was made by Sri Herbert Risley, which was an official pronouncement accepted very largely both in India and outside India, though it is now regarded as arbitrary classification based on insufficient data and immature science. Indian races were divided into seven broad groups, such as Mongoloid, Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Mongolo-Dravidian, Aryo-Dravidian, Scytho-Dravidian and Turko-Iranian.

Next classification was made by Dr. J. H. Hutton in 1933 based on race-cum-language and culture sequence. According to this theory all people came to India from outside, such as—

(1) Negritos from Africa—the oldest people to have come to India now surviving in the Andaman islands and in Malaya. Traces of them seem to occur among the Nagas in Assam and in certain tribes in South India.

(2) Proto-Australoids—who came from the East Mediterranean area.

(3) Early Mediterraneans—who brought earlier forms of the Austric speech.

(4) Civilised or Advanced Mediterranean—who became Dravidians in India.

(5) Armenoids—a specialised offshoot from the standard Alpine stock probably came with the civilised Mediterraneans (Dravidians) and spoke their language.

(6) Alpines—found in Gujarat and Bengal; earlier than Vedic Aryans but probably speaking Aryan dialects.

(7) Vedic Aryans or Nordics—who brought the Vedic Aryan (Sanskrit) speech.

(8) Mongoloids—Not important for the greater part of India as they touched only the northern and eastern fringes.

The most recent and authoritative classification has been made by Dr. R. S. Guha, Director of Anthropology, who divides the people of India into six main races with nine sub-types.
(1) Negrito—is now almost extinct in India, a small group is still surviving in Andamans and its traces have been found among Kadara and Palayans of Cochin and Travancore Hills, Irurals of the Wynad, the Angami Nagas of Assam and some of the Rajmahal peoples like the Semangs of Malaya and the Papuans of New Guinea, Hill tribes of Bihar. They are related to the Asian and Oceanic but not to the African Negroes and Negritos.

(2) Proto Australoids—are related genetically to the Australians as well as the Europeans. They survive in a good many aboriginal peoples of the present day India, although more or less mingled with other people. The majority of the tribal peoples of central and southern India belongs to this group. Throughout the greater part of India, the Proto-Australoid peoples still live as the lower castes or sections of the Indian people.

(3) The Mongolid Group—is found in the mountainous zones of north and north-east India. This group is divided into (1) Palaeo-Mongoloids consisting of long headed and broad headed types. They form a dominant element in the tribes in Assam and the Indo-Burmese frontier and among the less primitive types in Burma and in Chittagong; (2) Tibeto-Mongoloids are found in Sikkim and Bhutan. Their physical characteristics are: short and broad face with high cheek bones, a skin fold from the upper-eyelid covering usually the inner eye corner giving the eye a slit and oblique appearance, scanty hair on face and body and light brown skin with yellowish tint.

(4) Mediterranean Group consisting of (a) Palaeo-Mediterranean, medium statured, dark skinned and slight built, found in Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam tracts; (b) Mediterranean, true European type found in the Punjab, Upper Gangetic Valley and is supposed to represent civilised pre-Aryan Dravidian people of Northern India, who contributed largely to the evolution of Hindu people and culture of North India; (c) Oriental Type, sometimes called Semitic or Jewish, found in the Punjab, in Sind, in Rajputana, in western U.P. and in some other parts of India.

(5) Western Brachycephals consisting of (a) Alpinoid, (b) Dinarik and (c) Armenoid. They seem to have evolved in the Central Asian mountain regions and both Alpine and Dinarik varieties appear to have spread over the greater part of India, i.e., Bengal, Orissa, Kathiawar, Kannada and Tamil countries, Gujarat, West coast of India excepting Malabar. The Parsis of Bombay are allied to Armenoids.

(6) Nordics are the Aryan speaking group of India who are responsible for India’s Hindu civilization and seem to have come from the Eurasian steppe lands and entered India during the second half of the second millennium B.C. The Nordic elements are strong in North-West Frontier of India, in the south of Hindu-Kush range. Nordic elements are present in mixed form in Punjab, Rajputana, Upper Ganges Valley. They are also found among higher castes and groups and also Nordic type predominates in certain sections in India.

Lastly the author of this classification Dr. B. S. Guha has, how-
ever stated, "It must be clearly understood that no rigid separation is possible as there is considerable over-lapping of types."

MINERALS

India is very rich in mineral resources. She is favoured with a supply of coal sufficient for its present and future industry. Coal reserves are estimated at 20 thousand million long tons, of which 5 thousand million tons are good-quality coal. More than 80 p.c. of India’s coal is produced in the States of Bihar and West Bengal. Other coal mining areas are Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Hyderabad and Assam. Large deposits of lignites have recently been found in Madras coastal plain. The country has enormous resources of iron ore, her deposits of high grade ore being among the richest in the world. Ores of good quality are found in Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Bombay and Mysore.

Deposits of mica and manganese are large enough not only to meet present domestic requirements but also to enter significantly into the country’s export trade. India produces about 75 p.c. of the world’s total supply of mica, the principal deposits being found in Bihar, Rajasthan and Madras. Reserves of high grade manganese ore are estimated at 10 to 20 million long tons and the deposits of low grade ore several times larger. India’s bauxite reserves are estimated at 250 million tons. India also has substantial deposits of titanium and thorium ores, kyanite, beryllyum, chrome and gypsum. The supplies of refractories, abrasives and limestones are fairly adequate. The country is, however, deficient in copper, tin, lead, zine, nickel, cobalt, sulphur, and above all petroleum.

Various rock formations of India constitute a rich source of building materials. Rajasthan has pink marble and the Deccan excellent granite. Rich deposits of white and grey marble and limestone occur in various parts of India. Cream and reddish brown sandstone is found in north India.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the major enterprise of India, providing the livelihood for about 70 per cent of the population. The total land available for cultivation is about 358 million acres. The land available for cultivation per capita of population is 1.06 acres. There is hardly a crop of the tropical, sub-tropical or temperate zone which is not grown in the country. Food crops occupy about 85 per cent of the total sown area. Rice accounts for about half of India’s cereal output, the other half is accounted for by a variety of grains including wheat, millet and barley. Of the total area under cultivation about 17 per cent is irrigated by major and minor works, the rest being dependent on rainfall. Agriculture is the largest single industry in India and as an agricultural country she occupies a unique position in the world. She is the largest sugarcane producing country in the world. She holds virtual monopoly in lac, follows U.S.A. in cotton, ranks with China and Africa as one of the leading millet producing
countries and leads with China in the production of rice and tea. More than 50 per cent of the tea produced in the world comes from India bringing about Rs. 90 to Rs. 150 crores of India's foreign exchange.

Commercial crops form the bulk of the country's exports. India is the important producer of oilseeds and vegetable oils. Among the other cash crops grown in India are tobacco, cotton and jute. India is the third largest grower of tobacco.

ANIMALS

Indian climatic conditions have naturally developed a great variety of animal life and the number of animal species found in India is much greater than that in Europe.

In India, animals are chiefly seen in the valleys of the Himalayas (i.e. Terai Forests) extending from Kashmir to the Brahmaputra valley, on the Eastern and Western Ghats and in the jungles of Madhya Pradesh and Central India. There are several big game reserve forests in India which now preserve some rare animals of India.

1. **Wild Animals**—Lion is almost extinct and is now preserved in Gir forest of Kathiawar. Tigers are found all over India. Leopards (hunting leopards), Panthers, Cheetahs are common in the hills and plains. Elephants are found in the lower Himalayan valley, the Brahmaputra valley and forests of Nilgiri hills. Bears are available on the hills everywhere. Deer and antelopes are commonly seen in the plains.

Yaks are only seen in higher Himalayas, Rhinoceros lives in the swamps of Assam, North Bengal, Nepal. Monkeys, Porcupines, Hares, wild Hogs are to be seen everywhere.

2. **Domestic Animals**—Goats, sheep, horses, ponies, asses, mules, bullocks, buffaloes are available here and there. Camels are seen in the desert districts of Rajasthan and East Punjab.

3. **Birds**—Vultures, kites, hawks, wild ducks, wild geese, patridges, pigeons, parrots, cranes, peacocks, snipes and sand grouse are available everywhere. Birds in India, as in most hot countries, are more famous for their plumage than for their song.

4. **Reptiles**—Crocodiles are seen everywhere. The deadly snakes of India are Cobras, Russel's Vipers, Kerait, Hamadryads.

5. **Fish**—Most numerous fish are of carp family. The finest fish from angler's point is Masher found in all streams. The richest and tasty fish of India is hilsa. Fishing waters, river and sea, of Bengal and Madras are among the most extensive in the world.

FISHERIES

India with a coastline of 3,500 miles has a fishable area of about 110,000 square miles. Similarly the extensive backwaters, estuaries, lagoons, numerous rivers, large number of lakhs, reservoirs, tanks, etc., are a rich potential of inland fisheries. India's annual production of fish is estimated at one million tons, of which 70 per cent is of sea
and estuarine origin and the rest comes from fresh water. Average per capita annual consumption of fish in India is estimated at 3.98 lb.

LIVESTOCK

India is one of the largest livestock countries in the world. India has 158.9 million cattle and 44.6 million buffaloes. The poultry population of India is about 97.4 million according to the 1956 census. India has 38.7 million sheep which are an important source of wool and meat. India’s 158.9 million cattle constitute a fourth of the world’s cattle population. The most important cattle-rearing region is the north-west. It is a belt extending from Kathiawar through Rajasthan and Punjab to Kashmir.

The chief livestock products are milk, butter, ghee, meat and eggs, while a proportion of hides, skins, wool, bones and horns is exported. The annual production of milk is 19.1 million tons and per capita consumption of milk and milk products has been estimated at 5.26 oz. a day.

Among the best cows in India are Sahiwal (Punjab) and Gīr (Saurashtra). The important breeds of bullocks are Hansi (Punjab), Nellore (Madras), Amrit Mahal (Mysore), Kankajra (Gujarat), Kangayam (Madras), Kherigarh (U.P.), Dangi and Nimar (Bombay) and Harima (Punjab). Best breeds of buffaloes are Murrah (Punjab), Jafferbadi (Saurashtra), and Mehasana, Surati and Pandharppuri (Bombay).

FORESTS

The forests of India cover 22.1 per cent of the country’s area. The forests are mainly confined to the Himalayas, Vindhyas and the Deccan. The production of timber amounts to 2.07 million tons per annum at present. The other products of Indian forests are lac, tanning material, gums and resins and medicinal herbs, etc.

India has been divided into three botanical areas and six provinces for the proper study of vegetation of India. The three botanical areas are (a) Himalayan—represents a rich, tropical temperate and alpine flora with forests of conifers, oaks, rhododendrons and a profusion of orchids, (b) Eastern—consisting of a few conifers, many oaks and palms with a greater preponderance of orchids and (c) Western which has only one conifer, few palms and very small orchids without any oak.

These three areas are divided into six botanical provinces based on their climate and physical characters, namely (1) Eastern Himalaya, (2) Western Himalaya, (3) Indus plain, (4) Gangetic plain including Sunderhans, (5) Malabar and (6) Deccan—each with its peculiar flora.

The forest vegetation of India is divided into five types according to the variation in climate, altitude and habitat, such as—(1) Evergreen, (2) Deciduous, (3) Dry, (4) Hill and (5) Tidal or Littoral.
INDIAN FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

GENERAL

India is one of the largest, richest and most populous nations in the world.

India is among the ten leading industrial nations of the world.

Indian railway system is the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world.

Land constitutes the largest portion of the natural resources of India.

POPULATION

Next to China, India is the world's most populous country.

Every seventh man in the world is an Indian.

India's total population of 361.25 million (including Kashmir and Tribal areas of Assam) according to 1951 census, is the second highest in the world, China leading with a population of 463.50 million.

The density of population per sq. m. in India is 312.

India's population constitutes 15.1 per cent of the total population of the world against China's 19.4 per cent.

There are 3,018 towns and 5,58,089 villages in India.

Total land area of India is 12,66,900 sq. miles.

India's 73 cities have a population of a lakh or over. Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of cities—16.

82.7 per cent of the Indian population reside in villages whereas 17.3 per cent live in cities and towns.

India has 947 females for every 1,000 males.

Bihar contains the largest tribal people in India next only to Madhya Pradesh.
AGRICULTURE

India is mainly an agricultural country. It provides livelihood to 70 per cent of the people and accounts for nearly half of the total national income.

India is the world’s largest producer of oilseeds and tea and third largest grower of tobacco.

The average holding in India is only about 5 acres.

India is one of the most fertile lands in the world. But the average yield of every crop per acre is not only the lowest in the world but the figures are tragic.

Indian forests cover nearly 22.1 per cent of the country’s area.

India has now the largest irrigation works and the longest mileage of canals in the world.

India now produces 7 per cent of the world’s tobacco.

India has fourth of the world’s total cattle, i.e., 158.9 million. But India’s cattle are worst of the lot, and they are fit only, to produce for India the largest amount of cattle hides. The average yield of milk per cattle per annum is only 413 lb., which is the lowest in the world.

The chief crops of India are rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, cotton, jute, linseed, groundnut, coffee and rubber.

India today is one of the largest producers of sugar, 80% of which is produced in the two States of U.P. and Bihar. But the per capita consumption of sugar in India is the lowest in the world.

India enjoys virtual monopoly of lac production in the world and leads the world in the production of groundnut and tea.

India is the second largest producer of rice, jute, tobacco and cotton.

More than 50 per cent of the tea grown in the world comes from India.

MINERALS

India is the second largest producer of manganese, ilmenite mica, magnesite and bauxite and the quality of mica is perhaps the best in the world.
India produces about 75 per cent of the world's total supply of mica.

Indian iron ore has the highest metal content (about 55 to 70 per cent) which makes the production cost of pig iron the lowest in the world.

The annual consumption of salt in India is estimated at 530 lakh tons which means that per capita consumption of salt is one of the lowest in the world. India has, however, become self-sufficient in salt within recent years.

India produces annually about 3,50,000 ounces of gold valued at about Rs. 3 crores.

India stands 12th among the petroleum producing countries of the world, and the average production per year is about 0.62% of the world output.

India ranks seventh among the coal-producing countries of the world.

India has no workable deposits of nickel, cobalt, tin, tungsten or mercury; lead and zinc production is negligible.

TRADE & INDUSTRIES

India is one of the largest industrial countries of the world; but industry gives occupation to only about 8% of the total population of India.

India ranks fifth in the world in volume of trade. Raw materials take the biggest place in the export trade, of which jute, tea, cotton, skin and rice form half.

Jute and cotton manufactures, tea, spices, vegetable oils, raw cotton and wool, tobacco, seeds, gums, fruits, mica and manganese have constituted the bulk of the country's export trade in recent years.

Cotton and jute manufacturing are the two largest industrial activities of India.

Indian film industry is the third largest in the world.
Indian textile industry is the leading industry of India. India’s tea, sugar, match and vegetable oil industry are among the biggest in the world.

Sugar takes the third place among Indian industries.

Tata Iron and Steel works at Jamshedpur are now the largest steel works in the East.

Production of cement probably constitutes the second major heavy industry in India.

Iron and Steel constitute one of India’s largest heavy industries.

Cotton mill industry is the country’s largest organised industry.

PUBLIC HEALTH & HYGIENE

It is estimated that nearly 25 lakh people suffer from tuberculosis and about 5 lakhs die of it annually.

The birth rate, death rate and infant mortality in India are respectively 24.8 (1952), 13.4 (1954) and 116 (1952) per 1000.

Fever accounts for the highest number of deaths in India.

The average expectation of life in India is 32 (1954).

Over two lakh people die of cancer annually in India.

Malaria still continues to take the largest toll of human lives. It has been estimated that at least 100 million persons in the whole of India suffer from malaria every year. The annual mortality on this account is probably of the order of 1—1½ million.
# INDIAN INFORMATION

## STATES & TERRITORIES OF INDIA

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## Territories

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<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>577,635</td>
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<td>Tripura</td>
<td>639,029</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</td>
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<td>Laccadive, Minicoy &amp; Amandivi Islands</td>
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<td>North-East Frontier Agency</td>
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<td>Naga Hills Tuensang</td>
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<td>Area</td>
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## CITIES OF INDIA

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Vijayawada</td>
<td>Kolhapur</td>
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<td>Warangal</td>
<td>Bhavnagar</td>
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<td>Rajkot</td>
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<td>Jamnagar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shhopal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhagalpur</td>
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<td>Ranchi</td>
<td>1,06,849</td>
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<td>Tiruchirapalli</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Salem</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vellore</td>
<td>1,06,024</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tanjore</td>
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<thead>
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<th>Kanpur</th>
<th>7,05,383</th>
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<td>Agra</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Banaras</td>
<td>3,55,777</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Allahabad</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meerut</td>
<td>2,33,183</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bareilly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moradabad</td>
<td>1,61,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saharanpur</td>
<td>1,48,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dehra Dun</td>
<td>1,44,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aligarh</td>
<td>1,41,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rampur</td>
<td>1,34,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gorakpur</td>
<td>1,32,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jhansi</td>
<td>1,27,365</td>
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*Approximate.
### West Bengal

<table>
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<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Calcutta (Greater)</td>
<td>45,78,071</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcutta City</td>
<td>25,48,677</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howrah</td>
<td>4,33,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhatpara</td>
<td>1,34,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kharagpur Garden Reach</td>
<td>1,09,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behala</td>
<td>1,04,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tollyganj</td>
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### Mysore

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<thead>
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<th>City</th>
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<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>7,78,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>2,44,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolar Gold Fields</td>
<td>1,59,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubli</td>
<td>1,29,609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mangalore</td>
<td>1,17,083</td>
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### Jodhpur

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Bikaner</td>
<td>1,80,717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jodhpur</td>
<td>1,17,113</td>
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### Kerala

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trivandrum</td>
<td>1,86,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleppey</td>
<td>1,16,278</td>
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### Rajasthan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Jaipur</td>
<td>2,91,130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ajmer</td>
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### Delhi

<table>
<thead>
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<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Delhi</td>
<td>9,14,790</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>2,76,314</td>
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### HILL STATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Above sea level (ft.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Almora (U.P.)</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore (Mysore)</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhowali (U.P.)</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherrapunji (Assam)</td>
<td>4,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coonoor (Madras)</td>
<td>6,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalhousie (Punjab)</td>
<td>7,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darjeeling (W. Bengal)</td>
<td>7,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulmarg (Kashmir)</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalimpong (W. Bengal)</td>
<td>3,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasauni (Punjab)</td>
<td>6,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kdaikanal (Madras)</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulu Valley (Punjab)</td>
<td>4,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lansdowne (U. P.)</td>
<td>6,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahabaleshwar (Bombay)</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matheran (Bombay)</td>
<td>2,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Abu (Bombay)</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mussoorie (U.P.)</td>
<td>6,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nainital (U.P.)</td>
<td>6,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ootacamund (Madras)</td>
<td>7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panchmarhi (M.P.)</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranikhet (U.P.)</td>
<td>6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ranchi (Bihar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shillong (Assam)</td>
<td>4,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simla (Punjab)</td>
<td>7,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chakrata (U.P.)</td>
<td>6,900</td>
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### INDIAN BRIDGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bridge</th>
<th>Length (feet)</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sone Bridge</td>
<td>10,052</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godavari Bridge</td>
<td>9,096</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahanadi Bridge</td>
<td>6,912</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivekananda Bridge</td>
<td>2,610</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howrah Bridge* (1943)</td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jubilee Bridge (Naihati)</td>
<td>1,213</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chakrata Bridge (Chenab)</td>
<td>9,088</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutlej Bridge</td>
<td>4,210</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Bridge (1887)</td>
<td>3,578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narbada Bridge (1881)</td>
<td>4,887</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooghly Bridge</td>
<td>1,213</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ravi Bridge (Pathankot-Jammu)</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chakrata Bridge (Mokameh)†</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

* Largest cantilever span bridge in India and the third largest cantilever bridge in the world.
† Under construction.
NATIONAL PARKS & GAME SANCTUARIES

Hazaribagh National Park (Bihar).
Shivapuri National Park (Madhya Bharat).
Jaldapara Game Sanctuary (W. Bengal) mainly for rhino & buffalo.
Wild Life Sanctuary, Garumara (Jalpaiguri, W. Bengal).
Bandipur Game Sanctuary, 48 m. from Mysore.
Pariyar Wild-life Sanctuary, Travancore.
Sonai-Rupa Game Sanctuary, Darrang (Assam).

Ramganga National Park, Uttar Pradesh.
Kanheri National Park, Kanheri Valley, Bombay.
Mudumalai Game Sanctuary, Nilgiri, Madras.
Tirap Frontier Tract National Park, Assam.
Praba Buffalo Sanctuary, N. Lakhimpur (Assam).
Orang & Laokhowa Reserves (Darrang & Nowgong).
Manas Game Sanctuary, Kamrup (Assam).
Khiziranga Game Sanctuary, Sibsagar (Assam).

TEN HIGHEST PEAKS OF HIMALAYAS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Climbed on</th>
<th>Expedition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Everest</td>
<td>29,015</td>
<td>May, 1953</td>
<td>British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K*</td>
<td>28,250</td>
<td>July, 1954</td>
<td>Italian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanchenjunga</td>
<td>28,146</td>
<td>May, 1955</td>
<td>British</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lhotse</td>
<td>27,890</td>
<td>May, 1956</td>
<td>Swiss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Makalu</td>
<td>27,824</td>
<td>May, 1955</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cho Oyu</td>
<td>26,967</td>
<td>Oct., 1954</td>
<td>Austrian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annapurna</td>
<td>26,926</td>
<td>June, 1950</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dhawalgiri</td>
<td>26,795</td>
<td>Unclimbed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mansalu</td>
<td>26,656</td>
<td>May, 1956</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanga Parvat</td>
<td>26,029</td>
<td>July, 1955</td>
<td>Austrian-German</td>
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</table>

ATTEMPTS ON EVEREST

1920—Permission given by Dalai Lama to climb Everest from Tibetan side.
1921—1st Expedition under Lt. Col. Howard Bury, reached North Col. for the first time.
1922—Expedition under J. G. Bruce 27,300
1924—Exp. under Gen. Bruce and afterwards Norton* 28,150
1933—Expedition under Hugh Ruttlege 28,150
1934—M. Wilson’s lone attempt in which he lost his life.
1935—Eric Shipton’s reconnaissance expedition only

1936—Exp. by Hugh Ruttlege given up due to bad weather.
1938—Light mobile expedition by Tilman given up for atrocious weather.
1951—Reconnaissance expedition by Shipton to discover route from South Col. from the head of CWM through Nepal.
1952—Swiss Expedition by Dr. Wyss Dunant (reached by Lambert & Tensing) 28,215.
1952—2nd Swiss Exp. by Chevalley (post-monsoon) 26,686.
1953—British Exp. by Col. John Hunt reaches Everest on 29-5-53 (reached by Tensing and Hillary) 29,015

1956—Swiss Exp. reaches Everest twice, on 23rd May and on 24th May.

**ATTEMPTS ON KANCHENJUNGA, 28,146 ft.**

A. Crowley .. .. 1905 Br. Expedition led by Dr.
E. P. Parmer .. .. 1929 Charles Evans reached the summit .. 1955
Paul Bauer .. .. 1929
J. Dyhrenforth .. .. 1930

**CONQUEST OF MAJOR HIMALAYAN PEAKS**

*Trisul* by L. G. S. Longstaff (1907) .. .. 23,406
Do. by Oliver & K. Singh (1933) ..
Do. by Indian Expedition (1951)
*Jonson Peak* by Prof. Dyhrenforth (1930) .. 24,472
*Kabra* by W. W. Graham, 1883
*Annapurna* by French Expedition, leader M. Herzog (1950) .. 26,926
*Tirich Mir* by Norwegian Expedition (1950) .. .. 25,263
*Satopanth* by Roch & Sutter (1947) .. 23,240
*Rumthang Peak* by Prof. Dyhrenforth (1930) .. 23,200
*Mulik Parbat* by A. E. Riddiford (1951) .. 23,760
*Mount Kamet* by F. S. Smythe (1931) .. 25,447
*Nanda Devi* by Tilman & Odell (1936) .. 25,645
*Dunagiri* by A. Roch (1939) .. .. 23,772

*Kedarnath* by Koch & Sutter (1947) .. 22,772
*Bandar Punc* by J. T. M. Gibson (1950) .. 20,720
*Panch Chuli Peak* by P. Nikore (1953) .. 22,650
*Makalu* by French Expedition led by J. Franco 27,824
*K* (Godwin Austen) by Italians (1954) .. 28,250
*Mt. Cho-Oyu* in Nepalese Himalayas by Austrian Expedition (1955) .. 26,876
*Nanga Parvat* by German Aust., Exp. (1953) 26,029
*Mt. Nunkun* in Jammu & Kashmir by French Exp. (1953) .. 23,410
*Mansalu* by Japanese Expedition (1956) .. 26,456
*Makalu* by French Expedition, (1955) .. 27,824
*Kanchenjunga* by British Expedition (1955) .. 28,146
*Mt. Lhotse* by Swiss Expedition (1956) .. 27,970
*Mt. Cho-Oyu* by Indian Expedition (1958) .. 26,876

**HIGHEST INDIAN STRUCTURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>feet</th>
<th>feet</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Kutub Minar</em> .. .. 238</td>
<td><em>Victoria Memorial</em> .. 182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower of Victory, Chitore 122</td>
<td>Ochterloney Monument, Cal. 152</td>
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*379 steps.
†from ground level to the base of the victory figure.
OLD & NEW NAMES OF PLACES

<table>
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<th>New Names</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Calicut</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cawnpur</td>
<td>Kanpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilsa (Bhopal)</td>
<td>Bidisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muttra</td>
<td>Mathura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benares</td>
<td>Varanasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Provinces</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad &amp; Andhra</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh (Madras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travancore-Cochin</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amraoti</td>
<td>Amravati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocanada</td>
<td>Kakinada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjeeveram-Kancheepuram</td>
<td>Tiruvadi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellichpur (M.P.)</td>
<td>Achalpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellore</td>
<td>Eluru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jubbulpur</td>
<td>Jabalpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandi Phul (Pepau)</td>
<td>Pool (Mandi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masulipatam</td>
<td>Bandar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayaveram (Madras)</td>
<td>Mayuram</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Old Names  New Names

Buland Darwaja (Fatehpur Sikri)  176
Rajabai Tower (University), Bombay  260
Calcutta High Court  180

INDIAN FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

J. C. Bose. S. Bhatacharji. S. N. Bose (1958)
Meghnad Saha. II. J. Bhabha. Dr. S. K. Mittra (’58)
C. V. Raman. S. Chandrasekhar.

INDIANS IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

Sir Muncherjee Bhowanagri. Lord Sinha of Raipur (House of Lords).
Dadabhai Naoroji (Liberal). Lord Sinha, Second Baron of Sapurji Saklatvala (Communist). Raipur (House of Lords).
INDIAN INFORMATION

INDIAN PRIVY COUNCILLORS

Syed Ameer Ali.
Sir B. C. Mitter.
1921—V. S. Srinivasa Sastrī.
1926—Lord Sinha.
1930—Sir D. F. Mulla.
1931—Sir Shadilal.
1934—Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.
1936—Sir Akbar Hydari.
1939—Dr. M. R. Jayakar.
1941—Sir C. Madhavan Nair.

INDIAN PEERS OF THE BRITISH REALM

Sinha, Aroon Kumar (b. 1887).
Heir—Hon’ble Sudhindra Sinha (b. 1921).

INDIAN MEMBER OF THE U.S. CONGRESS

Dilip Sing Saund (Democrat)

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

1913—Rabindranath Tagore,
(Literature).
1930—Sir C. V. Raman,
(Physics).

LENIN PEACE PRIZE

1952 .. Dr. Safiuddin Kitchlu
1953 .. Major-General S. S. Sokhey
1958 .. Sir C. V. Raman

BHARAT RATNA

(The highest award of the Indian Union for exceptional work in the advancement of art, literature and science and in recognition of public service of the highest order).

1954 C. Rajagopalachari
" S. Radhakrishnan
" C. V. Raman
1955 Bhagwan Das
" M. Visvesvaraya
" Jawaharlal Nehru
1957 Gobind Ballabh Pant
1958 D. K. Karve.

PADMA VIBHUSHAN

(The award for exceptional and distinguished service in any field, including service rendered by the Government Servants).

1954 B. G. Kher
" V. K. Krishna Menon
" Nandalal Bose
1955 B. G. Karve
" J. R. D. Tata
1956 Fazl Ali
" Sm. Jankibai Bazaz
" C. M. Trivedi
1957 Sri Prakasa
" M. C. Setalvad
" G. D. Birla.
WINNERS OF PARAM VIR CHAKRA
(India's highest military decoration)

2/Lt. R. R. Rane, Corps of Engineers, 1948.

GOVERNOR-GENERALS OF INDIAN UNION

C. Rajagopalachari 1948-49.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1st term) 1950—1957
Dr. Rajendra Prasad (2nd term) 1957—

VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (1st term) 1952—1957
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (2nd term) 1957—

INDIAN PARLIAMENT

Lok Sabha: Speakers—G. V. Mavlankar 1952-56.
—Anantasayanam Iyengar 1956—
Rajya Sabha: President—Dr. S. Radhakrishnan 1952—

MILITARY CHIEFS OF INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE

Army

General Sir R. M. Lockhart 1948
General K. M. Cariappa 1949
General Maharaj Rajendra Singji 1953
General S. M. Srinagesh 1955
General Thimmaya 1957

Navy

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Perry 1948
Vice-Admiral C. T. M. Pizey 1951
Vice-Admiral S. H. Carllill 1955-58
Vice-Admiral R. D. Katari 1958

Air

Air Marshal R. J. Chapman 1948
Air Marshal G. E. Gibbs 1951
Air Marshal S. Mukherjee 1954
## INDIAN INFORMATION

### INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENTS
(First Session, 1885)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Bombay—W. C. Bonnerji.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Calcutta—D. Naoroji.</td>
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<td>1887</td>
<td>Madras—B. Tyabji.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Allahabad—George Yule.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Bom.—Sir W. Wedderburn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Calcutta—Sir P. Mehta.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Nagpur—P. Ananda Charlu.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Allahabad—W. C. Bonnerji.</td>
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<td>1893</td>
<td>Lahore—D. Naoroji.</td>
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<td>1894</td>
<td>Madras—Alfred Webb.</td>
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<td>1895</td>
<td>Poona—S. N. Banerji.</td>
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<td>1896</td>
<td>Calcutta—R. M. Sayani.</td>
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<td>1897</td>
<td>Amraoti—C. Sankaran Nair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Madras—A. M. Bose.</td>
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<td>1899</td>
<td>Lucknow—R. C. Dutt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Lahore—N. G. Chandravarkar.</td>
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<td>1901</td>
<td>Calcutta—Dinshaw Wacha.</td>
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<td>1902</td>
<td>Ahmedabad—S. N. Banerji.</td>
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<td>1903</td>
<td>Madras—Lalmohan Ghose.</td>
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<td>1904</td>
<td>Bombay—Sir H. Cotton.</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>Benares—G. K. Gokhale.</td>
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<td>1906</td>
<td>Calcutta—D. Naoroji.</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td>Surat—R. B. Ghose.</td>
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<td>1908</td>
<td>Madras—R. B. Ghose.</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>Allahabad—Sir W. Wedderburn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Calcutta—Bishen N. Dar.</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>Patna—R. N. Mudholkar.</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>Karachi—Sayed Muhammed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Madras—B. N. Bose.</td>
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<td>1915</td>
<td>Bombay—Sir S. P. Sinha.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Lucknow—A. C. Majumdar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Calcutta—Annie Besant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Bom. (Spl.)—Hasan Imam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Delhi—Pt. M. M. Malaviya.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Amritsar—Motilal Nehru.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Cal. (Spl.)—Lala Lajpat Rai.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Nagpur—C. Vijayaraghavachari.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Ahmedabad—Ajmal Khan.</td>
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<td>1922</td>
<td>Gaya—C. R. Das.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Delhi (Spl.)—A. K. Azad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Coranada—Mahomed Ali.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Belgaum—M. K. Gandhi.</td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>Cawnpore—Sarojini Naidu.</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>Gauhati—Srinivasa Iyengar.</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>Madras—Dr. M. A. Ansari.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Cal.—Pt. Motilal Nehru.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Lahore—J. L. Nehru.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Karachi—Sardar V. Patel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Delhi—Seth Ranchhodial.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Cal.—Nellie Sen Gupta.</td>
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<td>1934</td>
<td>Bombay—Rajendra Prasad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Lucknow—J. L. Nehru.</td>
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<td>1937</td>
<td>Faizpur—J. L. Nehru.</td>
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<td>1938</td>
<td>Tripuri—Subhas Bose.</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Subhas Bose.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>J. L. Nehru.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Meerut—J. B. Kripalani.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Dr. Rajendra Prasad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Jaipur—Dr. P. Sitaramiyya.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Nasik—P. D. Tandon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Meerut—J. L. Nehru.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Hyderabad—J. L. Nehru.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Kalyani—J. L. Nehru.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955-56</td>
<td>Avadi (60)—U. N. Dhebar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## INDIAN CHRONOLOGY

- **B.C.**
  - 3000—Indus Valley civilization.
  - 2900 to 1500—Period of Vedic civilization.
  - 563-483—Birth and death of Buddha.
  - 540-468—Traditional dates of birth and death of Mahavira.

- **A.D.**
  - 377—Buddhist Council at Baisali.
  - 326—Alexander's invasion of India.
  - 324—Rise of Maurya dynasty.
  - 305—Seleucus Nicator defeated by Chandra Gupta Maurya.
Indian Chronology—(Contd.)

A.D.

259—Missionaries sent to foreign lands by Asoka.

58—Beginning of Vikrama era.

76—Accession of Kanishka.

320-500—Gupta dynasty; Golden Age of Indian art, science and literature.

320—Accession of Samudra Gupta.

380-415—Reign of Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya).

405-11—Fa Hien travels in Gupta Empire.

450-457—Hun invasions.

480-90—Break up of Gupta Empire.

606-647—Reign of Harshavarman, king of N. India.

629-646—Hiuen Tsang's travels in India.

711—Arab conquest of Sind by Mohammed-bin-Qasim.

731—Yasovarman's embassy to China.

735—First Parsi settlement in India.

750—Gopala elected king of Banga-gauda (Bengal).

1000-1026—Muslim invasions of India by Mahmud of Ghazni.

1050—Atisa Dipankara sent on Buddhist mission to Tibet.

1192—Defeat and death of Prithviraj, the last Rajput King of Delhi.

1190-1290—Establishment of Muslim rule in North India: Reign of Slave Kings.

1228—Conquest of Assam by the Ahoms.

1231-32—The Kutub Minar.

1236—Death of Itutmish—Accession of Raziyya.

1236—Foundation of Vijayanagar Kingdom.

A.D.

1320-1414—Tughlak Sultans of Delhi.

1334-1342—Iban Batuta in India.

1347—Foundation of Bahmani Kingdom of Deccan.

1398—Invasion of Timur.

1451-1526—Lodi Sultans of Delhi.

1469—Birth of Guru Nanak.

1486-1533—Chaitanya, Saint of Bengal.

1494—Foundation of Agra by Sikandar Lodi.

1498—Vasco da Gama reaches Calicut.

1510—Portuguese capture Goa.

1526—Establishment of Mughal Empire by Babar.

1538-1545—Reign of Sher Shah.

1565—Battle of Talikota—overthrow of the Vijayanagar Kingdom.

1556-1605—Reign of Akbar.

1564—Abolition of Jizya.

1571— Fatehpur Sikri founded.

1586—Annexation of Kashmir by Akbar.

1597—Death of Rana Pratap.

1600—East India Company founded under Royal Charter.

1605—Death of Akbar.

1612—First English Factory at Surat.


1627—Birth of Sivaji.

1634—Firman permitting the English to trade in Bengal.

1658—Coronation of Aurangzeb.

1666—Sivaji's visit to Aurangzeb's court and his imprisonment and escape.

1668—First French Factory at Surat.

1675—Execution of Tegh Bahadur, 10th Guru of the Sikhs.

1680—Death of Sivaji.

1686-87—Fall of the Kingdoms of Bijapur & Golconda.
Indian Chronology—(Concl.)

1698—The English obtain Zamindari of the three villages of Sutanani, Kalikata and Gobindapur—nucleus of Cal.

1707—Death of Aurangzeb.

1734—Nadir Shah sacks Delhi.

1757—Battle of Plassey.

1761—Third battle of Panipat.

1765—Grant of Dewani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to E. I. Co.

1770—Famine of Bengal.

1774-95—Warren Hastings—Governor General of India.

1775—Execution of Nand Kumar.

1780—Ranjit Singh establishes a Sikh Empire.

1784—Pitt’s India Bill passed by Br. Parliament.

1790—Third Mysore War.

1793—Permanent settlement of Bengal.

1799—Death of Tipu Sultan. Partition of Mysore.

1829—Brahmo Samaj founded by Raja Rammohan Roy.

1829—Prohibition of Sati.

1833—Death of Raja Rammohan Roy.

1935—Introduction of English as medium of instruction.

1839—Death of Ranjit Singh.

1839-42—Anglo-Afghan War.

1853—Opening of Railways and Telegraph.

1854—Wood’s Despatch on Education.

1856—Annexation of Oudh.

1857—Indian Mutiny.

1858—Transfer of India from Company to the Crown.

1869—Birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

1874—Great Famine of Bengal.

1875—Arya Samaj founded by Dayananda Saraswati

1885—First Meeting of the Indian National Congress.

1905—Partition of Bengal.

1906—Foundation of the Muslim League.

1911—Partition of Bengal revoked.

1914—Gandhi returns to India from South Africa.

1919—Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms; Jalianwalabagh massacre at Amritsar (13th April).

1920—Non-Co-operation movement in India started.

1925—Death of C. R. Das.

1930-34—C. D. Movement—1st session of the Round Table Conference.

1931—Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

1935—Govt. of India Act 1935.

1937—Inauguration of Provincial Autonomy. Congress Ministries in majority of Provinces.

1942—Cripps Mission—Quit India Movement.

1943—Bengal Famine.

1946—Cabinet Mission’s Plan—Interim Government with Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister.

1947—Partition of India—India becomes independent—Kashmir attacked by Pakistan.

1948—Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi (Jan. 30).

India appeals to U.N to stop aggression by Pakistan in Kashmir (Jan. 2).

1949—India’s new Constitution passed into law.

1950—India becomes Republic (26th Jan.).

1951—First Five-Year Plan launched.

1951—First general election in independent India.

1954—French Settlements in India merged to India.

1956—Indian States re-organised on linguistic basis.
# NOTABLE INDIANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Born</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bal Gangadhar Tilak</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. M. Bose</td>
<td>1847</td>
<td>1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir K. Seshadri Iyer</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>1901</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. G. Ranade, <em>Social</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mahendraial Sarkar</td>
<td>1833</td>
<td>1904</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir J. N. Tata</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>1904</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devendranath Tagore</td>
<td>1817</td>
<td>1905</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. C. Bonerjee, 1st. <em>Cong. Prest.</em></td>
<td>1844</td>
<td>1906 (19 July)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. Ananda Chaulu</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>1908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir V. Bashyam Iyengar</td>
<td></td>
<td>1908</td>
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<td>Lalmohan Ghos, <em>Cong. Prest.</em></td>
<td>1849</td>
<td>1909</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. C. Dutt, <em>Congress President</em></td>
<td>1848</td>
<td>1909 (30 Nov.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girishchandra Ghosh, <em>Dramatist</em></td>
<td>1843</td>
<td>1911</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. K. Gokhale, <em>statesman, founder</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>of <em>Servants of India Society</em></td>
<td>1866</td>
<td>1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Pherozesah Mehta</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Ramanujam, <em>Mathematician</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Rashbehari Ghose</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>1921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ambica C. Majumdar, <em>Congress President</em></td>
<td>1851</td>
<td>1922</td>
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<td>Aswini Kumar Dutta</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>1923</td>
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<td>Sir N. G. Chandavarkar</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>1923</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Asutosh Mukherjee</td>
<td>1864 (29 June)</td>
<td>1924 (25 May)</td>
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<td>C. R. Das</td>
<td>1870 (5 Nov.)</td>
<td>1925 (16 June)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir S. N. Banerjee</td>
<td>1848</td>
<td>1925</td>
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<td>Sir R. G. Bhandarkar</td>
<td>1873</td>
<td>1925</td>
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<td>Lala Lajpat Rai, <em>Indian Patriot</em></td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>1928</td>
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<td>Lord Sinha of Raipur</td>
<td>1863</td>
<td>1928</td>
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<td>Syed Ameer Ali</td>
<td>1849</td>
<td>1929</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pt. Matilal Nehru</td>
<td>1861 (6 May)</td>
<td>1931 (6 Feb.)</td>
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<td>J. M. Sen Gupta</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>1933 (23 July)</td>
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<td>Sir Ali Imam</td>
<td>1869</td>
<td>1932</td>
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<td>V. J. Patel</td>
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<td>1933</td>
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<td>Sir Sankaran Nair</td>
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<td>1933</td>
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<td>Dr. M. A. Ansari</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir R. N. Mookerjee</td>
<td>1854</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir J. C. Bose</td>
<td>1858 (30 Nov.)</td>
<td>1937 (23 Nov.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Muhammad Iqdal</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<td>Sir Brojendranath Seal</td>
<td>1864</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore</td>
<td>1861 (7 May)</td>
<td>1941 (7 Aug.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahatma Gandhi</td>
<td>1869 (2 Oct.)</td>
<td>1948 (30 Jan.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarojini Naidu</td>
<td>1879 (13 Feb.)</td>
<td>1949 (1 March)</td>
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<td>Sri Aurobindo</td>
<td>1872 (15 Aug.)</td>
<td>1950 (5 Dec.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sardar V. Patel</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>1950 (15 Dec.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristodas Pal, <em>Politician</em></td>
<td>1834</td>
<td>1884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keshab Ch. Sen, <em>Religious Reformer</em></td>
<td>1838</td>
<td>1884</td>
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</table>
Notable Indians—(Contd.)

Syed Ahmed Khan .. 1817 1898
Bipin Chandra Pal .. 1855 1932
Dr. Shyama P. Mukerjee .. 1901 1953 (23 June)
Dr. Sarat Ch. Chatterjee
Bengali Novelist .. 1876 (15 Sept.) 1938 (16 Jan.)
Srinivasa Sastri .. 1869 1946
Dadabhai Naoroji .. 1825 1917
Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar .. 1820 (26 Sept.) 1891 (29 July)
Raja Rammohan Roy .. 1774 1833
Ramkrishna Paramhamsa .. 1834 (20 Feb.) 1886 (16 Aug.)
Dayanand Saraswati .. 1824 1883
Bankim Ch. Chatterjee, Bengali Novelist .. 1838 (26 June) 1894 (8 April)
Guru Nanak .. 1460 1531
Rashbehari Bose, Famous Revolu-
tionist .. 1870 1944
Swami Vivekananda .. 1862 (12 Jan.) 1902 (2 July)
Michael Madhusudhan Dutt .. 1824 (25 Jan.) 1873 (29 June)
Taru Dutt, Indian Portess .. 1856 1877
Abanindranath Tagore .. 1871 1951
Sister Nivedita .. 1867 (26 Oct.) 1911 (13 Oct.)
Pandit M. M. Malaviya .. 1861 (26 Dec.) 1946 (12 Nov.)
Rajendralal Mitra, Historian .. 1842 (15 Feb.) 1891 (26 July)
Subhas Chandra Bose .. 1897 (23 Jan.) 1945 (18 Aug.)
Surendranath Banerjee .. 1848 (10 Nov.) 1925 (6 Aug.)
Ravi Varma, Famous Artist .. 1848 (29 April) 1906 (Sept.)

FIRST IN INDIA

Largest Lake—Wular Lake, Kashmir.

Highest Peak—Nanda Devi (25,645 feet).

Largest populated City—Greater Calcutta (45,78,071).

Largest State—Bombay.

Highest Waterfall—Gersoppa Waterfall, Mysore (960 ft. high).

Largest Forest State—Assam.

Highest rainfall—Cherrapunji, 426 in. average yearly.

Largest Delta—Sundarbans Delta (8,000 sq. miles).

Longest Cantilever Span Bridge—Howrah Bridge.

Largest Cave Temple—Ellora, Hyderabad.

Longest Corridor—Rameswaram Temple Corridor (4,000 ft. long).

Largest Mosque—Jumma Masjid, Delhi.

Longest Bridge—Sone Bridge (10,052 ft. long).

Highest Dam—Bakhra Dam (680 ft. High).

Largest Sugar-cane producing area—Uttar Pradesh.

Most literate part of India—Kerala.

Longest electric train service—Bombay to Poona.
First in India—(Concl.)

Highest Gateway—Buland Darwaja (Fatehpur Sikri, 176 ft.)
Tallest Statue—Statue of Gomateswar (Mysore), 57 ft. high.
Longest Platform—Sonapur Platform (2,415 feet).
Longest Road—Grand Trunk Rd. (1,500 miles).
Highest Tower—Kutub Minar, Delhi.
Largest Dome—Gol Gambuz, Bijapur.
Largest Fair of Animals—Sonapur fair.

Biggest Zoo—Zoological Gardens, Alipur, Calcutta.
Largest Museum—Indian Museum, Calcutta.
Most Populated State—Uttar Pradesh.
Most-thickly populated State—Delhi.
Longest Tunnel—Jawahar Tunnel, linking Punjab and Kashmir, 1½ mile long, Asia’s longest road tunnel.
Longest Dam—Hirakud Dam

FIRST BEGINNINGS IN INDIA

1825—First issue of postal stamp in India in Sind.
1851—First official telegraph line opened for traffic between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour, October.
1853—First Indian Railway between Bombay and Thana, 16th April.
1854—First postage stamp on all India basis issued on 1st Oct.
1897-98—First electric plant installed at Darjeeling.
1911—First air-mail in India and the world from Baramauli to Naini (Allahabad) 6 miles.
1925—First electric train between Bombay and Kurla.
1929—First issue of air-mail stamp in India and the world.

FIRST AMONG INDIANS

Indian Governor—Lord Sinha of Raipur.
F.R.S.—A. Carsetjil
Congress President—W. C. Bonnerjee.
Nobel Prize winner—Rabindranath Tagore.
I.C.S.—Satyendranath Tagore.
Judge, High Court—Ramaprosad Roy.
Member, Viceroy’s Executive Council—Sir S. P. Sinha.
Member, India Council—Sir K. G. Gupt.

1st Indian to stand for the membership of the British Parliament—Lal Mohon Ghosh.
Wrangler, Cambridge University—A. M. Bose.
1st Woman President of U.N.—Vijayalakshmi Pandit.
1st Woman Minister of the Legislative Assembly—Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Minister of U.P.
Woman Governor—Sarojini Naidu.
Woman President of the Congress—Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.
1st in I.C.S. Exam.—Sir Atul Chatterjee.
Member, British Parliament—Dadabhai Naoroji.
INDIAN INFORMATION

First Among Indians—(Concl.)

Winner, Victoria Cross—Khudad Khan.
Member, Privy Council—Syed Ameer Ali.
Member, House of Lords—Lord Sinha.
Commander-in-Chief—General Cariappa.
I.M.S.—Dr. Goodeve Chuckravarti.
Woman M.A.—Chandramukhi Bose.
Test cricket player—K. S. Ranjitsinji.
1st Woman Barrister—Mrs. Cornelia Sorabji.
Advocate-general—Sir V. B. Shyam Iyengar.
Member of the U. S. Congress—D. S. Saund.

HILL STATIONS

Almora—in Kumaon Hills. Altitude 5,400 ft. above sea level. Mean annual rainfall 45.55 inches; It is about 30 miles from Ranikhet and 82 miles from Kathgodam by a good motor road. From Almora some of the highest peaks of the western Himalayas can be seen against the horizon. The main attraction for hikers is the famous Pindari glacier. Almora to Pindari glacier is 98 miles, the glacier is about two miles long, 300 to 400 yards broad and 13,000 to 14,000 ft. above sea level. The glacier which is named after the Pindari river is formed by the heavy snows on the peaks of Nanda Devi and Nanda kot.

Bhowali—is situated at a height of about 5,600 feet, and is only seven miles from Nainital. Bhowali is famous for its T. B. Sanatorium and is export centre for the famous Himalayan fruits.

Bhimtal—Just a little over 14 miles from Nainital is Bhimtal, enveloping a pretty lake which provides an excellent fishing centre.

Bangalore—The cantonment is the largest in South India. Bangalore has big industries, large parks and fine public buildings. Altitude 3,000 ft. above sea level.

Coonoor—on the Nilgiri Hills in the Madras State: Altitude 6,000 ft. above sea level. Nearest railway station is Coonoor. It is reached from Ootacamund by rail.

Chakrata (6,900 ft.)—is 21 miles from Mussoorie on the hill-road to Simla. It is surrounded by huge forests and lovely walks.

Cherrapunji—is 30 miles south of Shillong and receives more rainfall than any other place in the world; the annual average being 426 inches. The nearest railway station is Pandu; altitude 4,455 ft.

Nainital—is a hill sanatorium in Kumaon Hills, picturesquely situated on the shores of a beautiful lake. This lake has a superficial area of about 120.5 acres and a mile in diameter. Altitude 6,300 ft. It is only 22 miles from railhead at Kathgodam, which in turn is connected with Bareilly, Lucknow and Agra by direct train services. A car journey from Kathgodam to Nainital takes an hour and a half.

Mussoorie—is a hill sanatorium, on the southern slopes of the Himalayas, 22 miles from Dehra Dun, overlikening the beautiful Doon Valley. It is 168 miles from Delhi by a good motor road. Altitude 6,580 ft. above sea level. Nearest railway station is Dehra Dun.
Dharmsala—This is the headquarters of the Kangra district and a beautiful little hill resort in the midst of wild and picturesque surroundings. It is connected with the railhead at Pathankot by an excellent motor road (56 miles).

Lansdowne—is situated in Garhwal about half way between Mussoorie and Nainital. It commands a wonderful view of snows, the Badrinath block being nearest. It is reached by Northern Ry. from Kotdwara via Najibabad junction and there is good service of motor cars, a distance of 26 miles; altitude 6,060 feet.

Mukteshwar—A beauty spot in the Kumaun Hills. It offers a remarkable view of the surrounding valleys and the mountain gradually rising up to their snowcapped glory. The Government of India Veterinary Research Institute is located here.

Mount Abu—is reached by a good motor road from Abu Road railway station. The range is about 50 miles in circumference. The climate is very healthy and delightfully cool. The average temperature is 60°. Altitude 4,500 ft. above sea level. It is a place of pilgrimage for Jains, for here are celebrated Dilwara temples containing some of the finest specimens of Jain carving in India, whilst the temples themselves are prominent alike for their beauty and as typical examples of Jain architecture.

Pindari Glacier—is famous all over the world. It is five days’ march from the motor-head at Almora. Situated at the heart of the Himalayas, the Pindari Glacier is more magnificent than Jang Frau of Switzerland.

Gulmarg—is at a distance of 30 miles from Srinagar, and is one of the finest pleasure resorts of Kashmir, popular for skating, trekking and other winter sports.

Dalhousie—Altitude 7,867 ft. above sea level and 52 miles from Pathankot railway station reached by motor road. From Delhi it is a night’s journey. It consists of five distinct hills. The Thera Mall with a level circuit of 1½ miles surrounding the central hillock is a favourite with the visitors.

Darjeeling—Altitude, 7,168 ft. above sea level, magnificent snow views of Mount Everest (29,002 ft.) and Kanchenjunga (28,104 ft.). The minimum temperature in winter is about 30°. It is the centre of a large tea district. It is 369 miles from Calcutta.

Kotagiri—is 18 miles from Ooty with an altitude of 6,500 ft.

Kalimpong—Hill station near Darjeeling. It is also reached from Siliguri by motor (41 miles). 4,000 ft. high.

Kodaikanal—A hill station in Southern India on the upper range of the Pulney Hills in the Madurai district. It is 7,000 ft. above the sea level. The nearest railway station is Kodaikanal Road.

Kasauli—A hill station in the Simla district, situated on the crest of a hill overlooking Kalka Valley and the plains of the Punjab, 23 miles from Kalka by motor road. For years Kasauli has been the centre of scientific research. It has the first Pasteur Institute in India established in 1955. Later the Central Research Institute for the manufacture of vaccines and sera and antidotes of snakebite and a food laboratory were also established.
Kulu & Kangra Valleys—lie at the foot of the Dhaula Dhar Range of the Himalayas. Kangra, Jogindernagar, Chamba, Dharamsala, Dalhousie and Kulu are some of the chief holiday resorts. Kulu and Kangra valleys are known for their orchards and tea plantations. The valley is about 4,700 ft. high. The main route is via Pathankot. Pathankot to Kulu is a distance of 175 miles by motor. The valley is called the Valley of the Gods due to every village having its own God.

Ootacamund—is the leading hill station of South India, situated in the heart of Nilgiris. Altitude 7,220 ft. above sea level. Mean annual day temperature is 57-50°F. The place is reached from Madras by Blue Mountain Express upto Mettupalayam, from where a hill railway conveys to Ooty over a distance of 30 miles.

Mahabaleswar—Principal hill station of the Bombay Presidency and summer retreat of the Bombay Government. Altitude 4,500 ft. above sea level. Nearest railway station is Poona, 75 miles.

Matheran—Nearest hill station of Bombay. It is only 2,650 ft. high.

Chail—lying on a ridge covered with a thick forests, Chail is connected with Simla by an almost best fairweather motor road. It is a delightful little hill station. There is a regular bus service between Kalka and Chail via Kandaghat.

Pachmarhi—in Hosangabad, Madhya Pradesh, is 32 miles from Pipariya Station on Central Ry. The place is only two hours’ distance by an excellent motor road from the railway station of Pipariya. Pachmarhi rises 3,500 ft. above sea level. Pachmarhi derives its name from the “Panch marhi” or ‘five huts’—actually five caves on a little hillock. Hindu tradition ascribes them to be the five Pandava brothers who were supposed to have rested there in the course of their wanderings. But probably the caves were constructed in earlier Buddhist times.

Ranikhet—is about 40 miles from Nainital and 52 miles from the railway terminus of Kathgodam. It is 6,000 ft. high. Set amidst pine-clad hills, it is more or less a veritable garden town and commands an excellent view of the snows. Its greatest attraction is the wonderful view it commands of the Central Himalayan range extending from western Nepal to the snowy heights of Badrinath and Tehri Garhwal further west.

Ranchi—Altitude 2,100 ft. above sea level. Mean annual day temperature is 74-9°F. Nearest railway station is Ranchi.

Shillong—is on the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. It is the headquarters of the Assam Government. Altitude 4,980 ft. above sea level. Average temperature in midsummer rarely reaches 80°F. Cherrapunji, 30 miles south of Shillong, holds the world record for rainfall, average 426 inches per annum (in 1861 the rainfall at Cherrapunji was 905 inches). Nearest railway station is Pandu (68 miles).

Simla—is perched on the skirts of the lower Himalays at a height of 7,235 feet. It is reached by mountain railway which connects Kalka and Simla. Mean temperature is 55°F, and annual rainfall is 70”. It is now the capital of Himachal Pradesh.
PLACES OF INTEREST IN INDIA

Agra—Famous for Taj Mahal and Agra Fort which contain all the glories of Mughal Empire, such as Dewani Khas, Moti Masjid, Jasmine Tower, Dewani-i-am, also tomb of Akbar at Sikandra and Itmud-ud-Danla.

Amarnath—Situated at a height of nearly 13,000 ft. in Kashmir where thousands of Hindus make pilgrimage in August. There is a motor service from Srinagar upto Pahalgam (7,200 ft.), 60 miles from Kashmir where motor road ends. The cave is about 50 ft. high and 50 ft. deep situated between two huge mountains known as Kailash and Bhaira. At the back of the cave are several ice stalagmites in the shape of lingams—the frozen image of gods Siva, Parvati, Kartik and Ganesh, all self-made images of ice.

Aurangabad—is situated 70 miles from Manmad on the Central Railway. It has world-renowned temples and monastic caves of Ellora and Ajanta. There is also the historical fort of Daulatabad, the Raoza which contains the tomb of the great Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and the magnificent tomb of Aurangzeb’s wife, Bibi-ka-Muqbara, replica of the Taj Mahal of Agra. From the city of Aurangabad all these places can be visited.

Amritsar—is situated in the north-west of the Punjab at a distance of only sixteen miles from Wagah, the outpost of the Indo-Pakistan border. It is famous for Sikh golden temple, the most sacred to the Sikhs, and the tank called the pool of immortality. The pool is enclosed by a wide marble-paved quadrangle 204 ft. long with an archway over it. In the centre of the pool is the Temple, a square building with marble inlaid walls and dome-shaped roof, under which shaded by a silken canopy lies Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs. It is also famous for gold and silver thread, carpets, silks and pashmina materials. It derived its name from the sacred tank on which the golden temple is situated. The town stands on the main route of the Northern Railway. About two furlongs from the Golden Temple is the world-famous Jalianwala Bagh.

Ajmer—A city of antiquity and celebrity. Ana Sagar Lake is famous for its picturesque surroundings. The place is famous for Darga Khwaja Sahib, the tomb of the famous Muslim saint Muin-ud-din Chishti. The shrine contains the large drums and candle-sticks taken by Akbar at the siege of Chitor and two mosques, one built by Akbar and the other by Shah Jahan. At seven miles’ distance, there is Pushkar, the most sacred lake of India. Ajmer lies on the railway between Delhi and Ahmedabad.

Bijapur—is the ancient city of the famous Adil Shahi dynasty. It is now in ruins and the gigantic structure called the Gol Gambuz contains a perfect whispering gallery.

Buddha Gaya—Seven miles from Gaya is the sacred Buddhist site of Buddha Gaya, where under a bodhi-tree, Buddha conquered Mara and attained Buddhahood. King Asoka erected a temple near the tree. The temple at Buddha Gaya consists of a main tower, raising to a height of 180 ft. in the form of a slender pyramid.

Bhubaneswar—The new capital of Orissa State, contains the
famous Lingaraj Temple, Mukteswar Temple and Parasurameswar Temple, and other temples such as Bhagavati, Parvati, Anant Vasudeva, etc. On the hills known as Udaigiri and Khandagiri, a few miles from Bhuvaneswar, are caves once occupied by Jain monks, containing remarkable carvings, the earliest of which date to the second century B.C.

Banaras—Sacred city of the Hindus, contains numerous temples. The view of the ghats is magnificent, close by is the famous Hindu University. Five miles from the city is the Saranath where in the Mrigadava or Deer Park Buddha first preached his doctrine.

Chidambaram—It is 161 miles from Madras on the Madras-Trichinopoly section of south India. The place is sanctified by the world famous temple of Nataraja or Siva in his aspect of the cosmic dancer. The inner wall of the temple has four gopurams, two of which contain perfect sculptural representations of the 108 postures relating to Navya Sastra.

Chittorgarh—Famous for the Tower of Victory—contains wonderful Rajput ruins. It is the old capital of Sisodhiya Rajputs, the proud descendants of the sun-god who were rulers of Udaipur. The Tower of Victory was built by Rana Kumbha in commemoration of his many victories over Mughal invaders. It lies on the direct railway route from Katlam to Ajmer.

Delhi—Capital of India since 1911, was the capital of seven Empires. Some of the famous relics are—Red Fort with Imperial Palace of Shah Jahan, two Audience Halls, Rangmahal, the Hamam, Pearl Mosque and the Muntaz Mahal inside it, Jumma Masjid, Kutub Minar, Ferozabad, Indraprastha, Tуглукабад etc. Other places of interest are Tomb of Humayun, famous mosques and historic city walls. It occupies a strategic position, standing at the head of the plains of the Ganges and the Indus, the headquarters of all important railway lines of India.

 Fatehpur Sikri—Short distance of 24 miles from Agra, founded by Akbar in A.D. 1569 in a lonely eminence on the spot where saint Salim Chisti foretold the birth of a son of Akbar. After Akbar's death, the city was deserted within fifty years of its foundation, the reason being lack of water. Interesting places are: Imposing pile of great mosque measuring 542 ft. east and 438 ft. north and south, the tomb of Saint Sheikh Salim Chisti, houses of Akbar's wives Miriam and Jodhbbai. Panch Mahals—the building of five storeys, Hiran Minar, Buland Darwaza, the famous sand-stone chamber of Diwan Khas, etc. In the Pachisi Court, laid out in red sandstone squares, he used to play chess with the slave girls at piece. This is the city of sandstone, the specimen of the finest Mughal architecture.

Gwalior—is situated 194 miles from Delhi on the Central Railway. It has long been famous for its grand and imposing Fort.

Humpi (or Vijayanagar)—The ruins of this ancient city covering an extent of about 10 sq. miles on the south bank of Tungabhadra river near Hospet railway station on the Guntakul-Hubli section of the Southern Railway, is a witness to the rise and fall of the forgotten Hindu Empire which is said to have been the finest and the
greatest in South India. Humpi is the ruins of Vijayanagar, the ancient capital of Vijayanagar Empire. The ruins are virtually a vast open air museum of Hindu monuments in the Dravidian style of architecture.

Hardwar—It is situated at the place where the Ganges issues forth from the hills on its fertilizing career. Hari-ki-Pari is a place of worship, which is a footmark of Vishnu imprinted on a stone into the upper wall of the ghat.

Jaipur—The most typical Hindu city built of pink stone, was founded in 1728 by Sawai Jai Singh II. Its avenues and boulevards cut each other at right angles, dividing the city into straight blocks. There is also the famous observatory built about 1718 by the Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh. Hawa Mahal, Ram Niwas gardens, Albert Hall and Museum are the interesting places to visit. Seven miles from Jaipur is Amber, a deserted city with an old royal palace overlooking the lake at the entrance to a rocky mountain gorge where Rajput architecture can be seen at its best. Jaipur is famous for brass works, stone carving, ivory and sandalwood work, etc.

Jabalpur—616 miles from Bombay with an elevation of 1,362 ft. The Marble Rocks are situated 13 miles from Jabalpur. These rocks are magnesium limestone rocks over 100 ft. high. The finest impression of the rocks is to be got by moonlight.

Kanyakumari—The temple of Kanyakumari (the Virgin Goddess) is situated at Cape Comorin. It is the land’s end of India where Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean meet. This is one of the most picturesque spots of India.

Patna—is the capital of Bihar and it spreads twelve miles along the Ganga. Things worth seeing at Patna are the huge beehive shaped Gola, 90 ft. high and 420 ft. at the base, which was built at the time of Warren Hastings for the granary; Khuda Buksh Oriental Library is famous for its rare collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts; the ancient city of Patialiputra lies buried under Patna, which was once the capital of Chandragupta Maurya. It was also the capital of Asoka.

Madurai—was the capital of Pandiyan Kings and became famous in the 17th century under the Nayak kings. The huge temple of Madurai known as Minakshi Temple (Goddess with fish eyes) is the most famous of the South Indian temples and one of the finest edifices of Dravidian architecture. It is dedicated to Siva and his espouse Minakshi. The temple forms a parallelogram, 850 ft. by 750 ft. and is surrounded by nine gopurams one of which is 150 ft. high. The most elaborate stone carving is found in the Hall of a Thousand Pillars. The other important buildings are all associated with the name of Tirumala Naik whose palace is the perfect specimen of secular architecture in Madras State.

Kashmir—Altitude varies from 5,000 to 6,000 ft. Srinagar is the summer capital. It is 5,200 ft. with an area 11 sq. miles; mean temperature in January and February is 25°F. Srinagar is now reached by motor road via Pathankot. Srinagar lies along the banks of Jhelum which is crossed by seven bridges. Kashmir has beautiful Mughal gardens built by the Mughal Emperors of Delhi, such as
Shalimar gardens, Nishat Bag, Nasim Bag and Chashme Shahi. Following are the heights of some prominent places of Kashmir—Srinagar 5,200 ft.; Gulmarg 8,700 ft.; Phalgam 7,000 ft.; Amarnath 13,000 ft. Places worth seeing in Kashmir are—Phalgam 60 miles from Srinagar; Dal Lake; Amarnath—97 miles from Srinagar.

Lucknow—is the capital of Uttar Pradesh. The grandeur of the city dates from Asaf-ud-Daula, the fourth Nawab. Lucknow is known as the city of gardens. Outstanding among its buildings are the great Imambara with a hall 162 ft. long and 54 ft. wide, the Husainabad Imambara, Rumi Darwaza, Chattar Manzil and the Wingfield Park.

Pushkar—is famous for its lake and fair which is held in October-November. The lake is regarded as most sacred in India and the temple of Brahma close to the lake is supposed to mark the spot where the incarnation of the god took place.

Nalanda—Nalanda University was founded in the epoch of the Gupta kings and became one of the largest universities of Asia. Huen Tsang the well-known Chinese traveller who studied at the university in the 7th century, has left glowing accounts of its activities. It consisted of 10,000 scholars lodged in special hostels endowed by foreign kings. Instruction was provided in separate colleges with a vast library spread over three buildings. It flourished for 700 years until destroyed by fire by foreign invaders in the 12th century A.D. 29 miles eastwards on the road from Patna stands Bakhtisarpur. Here a road branches off due south to Bihar Sharif (19 miles) whence a smaller road leads to Nalanda station (6 miles). From the station the excavation site is 2 miles. Throughout the distance of 56 miles from Patna, the roads are serviceable all the year round. The site has been excavated by the Archaeological Department of the Government of India.

Mahabharatpur—Also known as seven pagodas, on the coast of Bay of Bengal, 53 miles south of Madras. Easily accessible by roads, it is 18 miles from Chingleput on the Madras-Trichinopoly section of the Southern Railway. Monuments of Mahabharatpur are hewn out of solid rock—such as (1) Five rathas, (2) Mahisasura Mandapa, (3) Krishna Mandapam, (4) Arjuna’s penance. These are the finest specimens of rock-cut and bas relief figures in India.

Saranath—is five miles outside Banaras. In the ‘Deer Park’ of Saranath, Gautama Buddha preached his First Sermon on Nirvana. The ruins of monasteries built more than 1,500 years ago draw Buddhist pilgrims from all over the world. Here stands the famous Asoka Pillar of polished sandstone whose lion capital was adopted by the Republic of India as the state emblem. The museum of Saranath contains many superb specimens of ancient art.

Udaipur—is one of the most beautiful cities in India. The city is completely encircled by a bastioned wall to which there are five main gates or poles. It stands in a valley amid green hills on the banks of a large lake with little islands. On these rise from the water’s edge marble palaces of pure white that glisten in the sunlight.

Tirukkklukundram—This is also called the Hill of the sacred kites.
This is midway between Chingleput Railway Station and Mahabaleshwar. There is a small shrine on a hillock, about 500 ft. high. Every day, just before noon, two kites considered to be sacred birds visit the hillock and eat from the hands of a priest. There is a belief that the birds are two saints who rest on their daily flight between Banaras and Rameswaram.

Tiruchirapalli—Till recently known as Trichinopoly, is 213 miles from Madras. The place has a famous rock Temple and also Teppakulam, a large tank with a mandapam in the middle.

Tanjore—On the main line of the metre gauge section of the Southern Railway lies Tanjore, the last capital of the Chola Dynasty. The place is famous for its great Sri Brihadeswara Temple, known throughout the world for its massive architectural excellence.

Rameswaram—At the extreme south-eastern limit of Indian peninsula stands Rameswaram where the great Rama himself is believed to have offered worship to Siva to expiate the sin of having killed in battle Ravana, the ten-headed ruler of Lanka. Rameswaram is little over two miles from Madurai and can be reached by a small branch line off Pamban, on the Dhanushkadi route. The temple of Sri Ramanathaswamy dates back to the 15th century. The glory of the temple is in its corridors. These extend to a total length of nearly 4,000 feet. Here the side corridors are 700 feet long and open into transverse galleries as rich in design as themselves.

ARCHITECTURAL & HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

HINDU & BUDDHIST

Ajanta Frescoes—Famous frescoes in the Buddhist caves of Ajanta, a village in Hyderabad State. It is reached by motor from Jalgaon Station on Western Ry.—37 miles from the station. The caves of Ajanta consist of 24 monasteries and 5 temples, some of which are 2000 years old. They are excavated on a wall of almost perpendicular rock, 259 ft. high, sweeping round in a hollow circle and extending a third of a mile from east to west. These caves are situated in the horse-shoe valley. Frescoes are now ranked among the masterpieces of the world’s art. The frescoes at Ajanta may be divided into narrative scenes, portraiture and decoration and illustrations of the life of Buddha.

Ambar Palace—In the deserted capital of Jaipur, this Palace is considered to include the finest specimen of Rajput architecture.

Barhut—Central India. The sculptures on the stone railing surrounding the Barhut stupa (second century B.C.) represent, with most careful exactitude the episodes in the life of Buddha and in his former lives.

Buddhist caves at Karli—One of the most famous of rock-cut temples. It is the largest and the most harmonious. It dates from the first century B.C. It is 124 ft. long and 45 ft. wide internally.

Bodh-Gaya Temple—The temple is built on the site of a shrine erected by the Emperor Asoka. It commemorates the moment when Gautama meditating under the trees of Bodhi attained
enlightenment and quality of Buddha after seven years of mental conflict and penance. The tower of the temple of Bodh-Gaya rises to the height of 180 feet.

**Black Pagoda**—Close to the sea-coast, north of Puri, stands the 700-years-old Konark temple. Legend runs that the Sun-god was once seen here rising out of the sea in his golden chariot. Where his shadow fell, devotees endeavoured to build a temple in the shape of the god’s chariot, complete with twenty-four wheels and seven horses. Though now partly in ruins, their symphony in stone still ranks as one of India’s greatest architectural splendours. 24 miles out of Puri, the road leading to Bhubaneswar, branches off at Pipili towards Konark, which lies 29 miles away. This road is motorable only between December and June. There is an inspection bungalow near the temple, but no refreshments are available.

**Belur Temple**—known as Chenna Kesava Temple is situated in Mysore State. The temple is one of those exquisite specimens of Hoysala architecture, built 1117 years ago by the munificence of the Hoysala King, Vishnuvardhana. Ferguson says—"There are many buildings in India which are unsurpassed for delicacy of detail by any in the world, but the temple of Belur surpasses even these for freedom of handling and richness of fancy."

**Chitore Fort**—symbolises the spirit of bravery and heroism of Gohilward and Sisodia Kings of Mewar. Chitore was the capital of Gohilward and Sisodia King of Mewar from the 8th to the 16th century. The fort presents a vast panorama of temples, imposing palaces and towers which are now mostly in ruins. The most famous is the Tower of Victory which was built by Rana Kumbha to commemorate his victory over Sultan Mohammad Khilji of Malwa in 1440.

**Dilwara Temples**—Near Mount Abu, the principal hill station of Rajasthan are the wonderful Dilwara Temples. Five in number, they date from the 11th, 12th and 13th century and are built entirely of marble. The carvings which decorate the interior walls and pillars of the temples are fantastically lavish, yet the general impression is one of perfect harmony. The Temples are the Vimala Shah, built in 1092 and the temple of the two brothers Vastupala and Tejpala built between 1197 and 1247.

**Elephanta Caves**—The Elephanta Island is about 6½ miles north-east of Apollo Bunder in Bombay harbour. There are seven caves in all, but the main cave marked No. 2 which contains the Siva shrine is the most important and contains the sculptured panels. The great three-faced idol representing Trimurti is the most striking among the sculptures in the caves.

**Ellora Caves**—These caves can be conveniently reached from Aurangabad on Western Railway and it is 71 miles from Manmad. The caves lie at a distance of 14 miles from Aurangabad. Ellora cave temples, 34 in number are perhaps the largest and most varied in India. There are three classes of caves, Hindu, Buddhist and Jain. Excavated in the scarp of a large rocky plateau, they are remarkable memorials of these great faiths. The most marvellous of all is the stupendous rock-cut temple of Kailasa, elaborately carved inside and outside. Hewn entirely out of solid rock, with its
massive pillars and colonades, intricate galleries, painted ceilings and huge sculptures, Kailasa is one of the world’s wonders.

Gwalior Fort—is one of the most impressive strongholds of mediæval India. The ascent to the fortress is like that of some fabled palace of the Arabian Nights. Of the many palaces within the walls, the most splendid is that of Man Singh.

Golden Temple—at Amritsar, the famous Sikh Temple stands on a raised plinth, 65 ft. square in the centre of the tank and is surrounded by verandas.

Gomateswara—Near the town of Sravana Belgola in the State of Mysore, is the giant figure of Gomateswara, the Jain sage. The figure is 57 ft. statue and is carved out of a single stone at the top of a hill. The image is probably 2,000 years old.

Iron Pillar—Only a few yards from Katub Minar stands the famous Iron Pillar of Chandra Varman, the Hindu King of Pushkaran. It is a solid shaft of wrought iron about 16 inches in diameter and 23 feet 8 inches in height. Purity of iron (99.97 p.c.), accounts for the absence of rust despite its exposure to the sun and rain for over 1500 years.

Mahabalipram—or Seven Pagodas are situated on the south coast of Madras. Its temples are bas-reliefs and are cut from living rocks. The most famous is the ‘Descent of the Ganges’. This giant image dating from the seventh century is cut in a granite rock, 90 ft. long and 43 ft. high. Another famous sculpture is ‘Vishnu reclining on the snake Ananta’. “Arjun’s Penance,” another bas-relief is the largest bas-relief in the world.

Meenakshi Temple—Madurai is remarkable for its most picturesque temple, the Meenakshi Temple with its magnificent Gopurams. The Great Temple dedicated to the Goddess Meenakshi forms a parallelogram, 850 ft. by 750 ft. and is surrounded by nine Gopurams, one of which is 150 ft. high. One of its principal structures is the Hall of thousand pillars in which groups of figures are carved from single stones.

Sanchi Tope—Famous Buddhist stupa in Bhopal, 25 miles from Bhopal. Stupa is a hemispherical monument of bricks or stones. Sanchi Stupa is one of the oldest (third-first century B.C.) and best preserved Stupas of India. Stupa stands on the top of a small hill and enclosed by the finest and oldest stone railing in India. The stupa is 120 ft. in diameter and 56 ft. high. The most striking features of the Stupa are the gates which face four cardinal points and measure 28 ft. 5 in. to the top of the third architecture and are profusely carved with scenes from Jataka stories. Near the Stupa is the new memorial erected to preserve the remains of the famous disciples of Buddha, Sariputta and Mangalana.

Tower of Victory, Chitore—A famous Hindu monument raised by Rana Kumbha in 1450 to commemorate his victory over the combined armies of Malwa and Guzarat. It consists of nine stories and is 122 ft. high.

Sirguya Frescoes—are the earliest dateable Indian paintings. These are a group of Buddhist frescoes (100 B.C.) on the walls of a cave in Sirguya in Madhya Pradesh.
Temple of Bhubaneswar—Near Puri, most famous of these are Rajarani and Lingaraj Temples. Rajarani Temple, erected in the 11th century is a gigantic tower covered with statues and surmounted by receding layers of stones, the whole inward-curving tower ending in a great circular crown and a spire. Lingaraj Temple is the most perfect example of north Indian architecture.

Kajuraho Temples—At Kajuraho in Bundelkhand are grouped about thirty temples dedicated to Siva, Vishnu or Jina. They date from about 950 to 1050. These temples are unrivalled for profusion of ornate detail. In the Kandarya Mahadeva temple, the largest of the group, the details of bewildering complexity are massed together to form a perfectly balanced unity.

Saranath—At Banaras, there is the great Buddhist Stupa, a stupendous stone structure, 104 ft. in height and 93 ft. in diameter. It commemorates the fact that here Gautama Buddha preached his doctrine to his first five disciples.

Temple of Sri Rangam—Two miles north of Tiruchirapalli, on an island formed by the bifurcation of the river Cauvery is Srirangam, famous for the temple of Vishnu, which contains a hall of thousand columns and sacred shrine of Ranganathaswami.

Rameswaram Temple—The temple of Rameswaram is probably the most perfect specimen of art in the Dravidian style. The holy town of Rameswaram is built on an island in Palk Straits. The great temple is in the form of quadrangular enclosure, 650 ft. broad by 1,000 ft. long. Its glory lies in its vast pillared corridors which extend to a length of nearly 4,000 feet.

MUSLIM

 Fatehpur Sikri—23 miles from Agra stands the city of palaces built of red sand-stone by Akbar in 1569-1584. Most important piece of art is Buland Darwaja, 176 ft. high built in commemoration of the conquest of Khandesh. Though the city was abandoned for lack of adequate water supply, what remains of its deserted glory is enough to testify to the perfection which Indo-Muslim architecture had attained in the reign of Akbar. Fatehpur Sikri stands authentic witness of Akbar's splendid effort to achieve a synthesis between Hindu and Muslim cultures.

Gol Gumbuz at Bijapur—is the 2nd largest dome in the world. This has a floor area of 18,110 sq. ft. This is the largest space covered by any single dome, second largest being that of Pantheon at Rome which has a floor area of 15,833 sq. feet. If the pendentives are also taken into account, the Gol Gumbuz is the greatest domed roof in the world too. It was built in 1656 by Sultan Mohamed Adil Shah to be his last resting place. The 11 ft. wide world-famous whispering gallery hangs out in the interior of the building, 109 ft. 6 ins. above the floor. The surface measurement of the dome including four octagonal towers is 205 sq. ft. and the height of the building from the base to the apex of the dome is 198 ft. 6 in. The exterior diameter measures 144 ft. whilst interior diameter is 134 ft. 5 in.

Kutab Minar (238 ft. high) at Delhi—is one of the masterpieces
of Indian technology and art. It is the highest stone tower in India. It was completed by Kutab-ud-din-Aibak in 1199 and further developed by Iltutmish in 1229. It is the first outstanding structure in the Islamic style. It is made of red stone and marble. It has five storeys separated by projecting balconies.

_The Fort, Agra_—Originally built by Akbar, the Fort saw many additions in the reign of the great builder, Shah Jahan. Its walls, 70 ft. high with octagonal towers and crenellated ramparts enclose many relics of old splendour, great courtyards, gateways, audience halls, mosques and royal apartments.

_The Red Fort, Delhi_—The walls of Red Fort enclose the former great imperial palace of Shah Jahan. The wonders of Red Fort recall the pomp and pageantry, the wealth and magnificence of Mughal times. Built by the emperor Shah Jahan between 1639-1648, the fort is famous for its _Diwan-i-khas, Pearl Mosque_ etc.

_Jama Masjid_—Known as India’s finest and biggest mosque, Jama Masjid was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan at Delhi during the period 1650-58. The masjid, raised on a lofty basement, is 201 feet in length by 120 feet and is flanked by two minarets 130 ft. high.

_Mausoleum of Sher Shah at Sasaram_—is a gigantic solid and masculine example of Moslem architecture standing in the middle of a large tank. 350 miles from Calcutta by Grand Trunk Road, Sasaram stands on the left bank of the Sone river.

_Taj Mahal at Agra_—Most famous tomb built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife—rises with its slender minarets in the midst of magnificent gardens. It is the result of collaboration between Indian, Turkish and European artists. The height of the dome is about 230 feet.

## THE CALENDAR

**INDIAN CALENDAR**—The _Bikram or Samvat_ era is most widely used specially in northern India, Rajasthan, Gujarat and is believed to have been established by Vikramaditya, king of Ujjain, to commemorate his victory over Saka kings. But there is dispute over the identity of Vikramaditya as there are so many kings bearing this name. It commenced on February 23, 57 B.C. Samvat is a lunisolar year.

The _Saka or Sakabda_ era is used in some parts of South India. There is an historical dispute as to the origin of this era. It is said to date from the Saka king, Salibahana or it begins with the coronation of the Kushan king Kaniska, and dates from 3rd March, 78 A.D.

_Bengali Year_ was originally a reckoning for agricultural and revenue purposes instituted at the time of Emperor Akbar. In A.D. 1556-6 corresponding to Hijri 962-3, solar computation was introduced to the Muslim era Hijri which became the _Fasli_ or harvest
era of northern India and was adopted as the current official era in Bengal.

Other Eras—The Buddha era from 543 B.C. and Chaitanya era from 1407 A.D.

Kali Yuga—The oldest era of India is Kali Yuga. The Kali Yuga began on the 18th Feb., 3102 B.C. Thus the Kali Yuga was 5060 in 1958.

India’s National Calendar—Saka Year—In 1952, a seven-man Committee was appointed by the Government of India to examine the calendar systems followed in the country. The Committee recommended the use of Saka era for a unified National calendar for civil purposes. The Government of India has adopted this uniform National Calendar, based on the Saka era. This calendar has been adopted with effect from March 22, 1957 corresponding to Chaitra 1, 1879 Saka.

The pre-eminence of the Saka era derives from the fact that it was the earliest to be introduced in India by the Saka ruling powers and was used exclusively by the Sakadhipi Brahmins (the astrologer caste) for calendar-making and for casting horoscopes since 1st century A.D. This was done on the basis of Siddhantia (scientific) astronomy evolved from old Indian calendar conceptions which were put on a scientific basis by blending them with astronomical conceptions prevalent in the West in the 3rd century. The Saka era is 78 years behind the Christian era. The Saka Year commences on the first of lunar Chaitra or the first of Solar Vaisakha in different parts of India.

A normal year would consist of 365 days, while a leap year would have 366 days. After adding 78 to the Saka era if the sum is divisible by 4, then it is a leap year. But when the sum becomes a multiple of 100, it would be a leap year only when it is divisible by 400, otherwise it would be a common year.

Chaitra should be the first month of the year. It should be 30 days in the common years and 31 days in a leap year. The five months following the month of Chaitra should consist of 31 days each and the last six months should all have 30 days. The dates of the reformed Indian Calendar would thus have a permanent correspondence with the dates of the present Gregorian Calendar, the corresponding dates being: Chaitra 1, March 22 in a common year and March 21 in a leap year; Vaisakha 1, April 21; Jaistha 1, May 22; Asada 1, June 22; Sravana 1, July 23; Bhadra 1, August 23; Asvina 1, September 23; Kartika 1, October 23; Agrahayan 1, November 22; Pausa 1, December 22; Magha 1, January 21; and Phalguna 1, February 20.

The Indian season would thus be permanently fixed with respect to the reformed calendar as follows—Grishma (Summer) Vaisakha and Jyestha; Varsha (Rains) Asada and Sravana; Sarat (Autumn) Bhadra and Asvina; Hemanta (late Autumn) Kartika and Agrahayana; Sisira (Winter) Pausa and Magha; Vasanta (Spring) Phalguna and Chaitra.

The National Calendar is now used for a number of official purposes together with the Gregorian Calendar. The purposes are
(a) the Gazetteer of India bears the new Indian date in addition to the Gregorian date (b) in the opening news broadcasts by the A.I.R. in various languages the new Indian date is announced in addition to the Gregorian date (c) calendars issued by the government as well as government publications progressively give the new Indian dates in addition to the Gregorian dates and (d) communications issued by the government addressed to the public now usually bear the new Indias dates in addition to the Gregorian dates.

MAHOMEDAN CALENDAR—The Mahomedan era is based on Hijra or flight of Mahomed from Mecca to Medina. The first day of the era is not the actual date of flight but 16th July, 622 A.D. Hijra is a purely lunar year consisting of 12 months containing in alternate sequence 30 or 29 days, with the intercalation of one day at the end of the 12th month at stated intervals in each cycle of 30 years, the object of the intercalation being to reconcile the date of the first month with the date of the actual new moon. The mean length of Hijra Year is 354 days 8 hours and 48 minutes and the period of mean lunation is 29 days 12 hours 44 minutes.

MODERN CALENDAR—The Roman Calendar had at first 10 months and 304 days, each month being divided into Kalends, Nones and Ides. The Julian calendar introduced 45 B.C. by Julius Caesar added 66 days with an extra day in February every 4th year, thus giving what we now call Leap Year. This Calendar was revised by Pope Gregory XIII (1502-85) who declared that 5 Oct. 1582 should be called 15 Oct., thus losing 10 days and also that a century should not be a Leap Year unless exactly divisible by 400, hence 1900 was not a Leap Year but 2000 will be. This Gregorian calendar has been adopted almost everywhere.

JEWISH CALENDAR—is luni-solar, that is to say, the year is solar and months are lunar. In a cycle of 19 years the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 19th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 16th and 18th year have 12 months and the remaining years 13 months of 29 or 30 days each. The length of the ordinary year may be 353, 354 or 355 days and that of the leap year 383, 384 or over 385 days; thus the mean length of the year over a 19-year cycle is just over 365 days. The years are reckoned from the creation of the world, the date of which is taken to be 3760 B.C. Thus the year A.D. 1938 is A.M. (Anna Mundi) 5698-99. The day begins at sunset for the purpose of observing the Sabbath and the various feasts and fasts. The time is 2 hours 21 minutes in advance of Greenwich time, being that of meridian of Jerusalem.

ZOROASTRIAN CALENDAR—is employed by Zoroastrians in India and Iran which began in June 16, A.D. 632.

BUDDHIST CALENDAR—It is reckoned from the death of Buddha in 543 B.C. (the actual date being 487 B.C.). The Buddhist year begins from Vaisakhi Purnima. Buddha was born on the Baisakhi full moon day, he took his seat under Bodhi tree at Gaya on full moon day to attain wisdom. It was on the full moon day again that he left the world.

HINDU CALENDAR—Hindus have employed luni-solar cycles made by the combination of solar years and lunar years so treated
as to keep the beginning of the lunar year near that of the solar year. In some parts of India solar years are used while in other parts lunar is followed:

The solar year is divided into 12 months in accordance with the successive Sankranitis or entrances of the Sun into the sidereal signs of zodiac. The names of the signs are as follows:—

Mesha, the ram (Aries).  
Vrishchika, the scorpion (Scorpio).
Vrishabhha, the bull (Taurus).  
Dhanus, the bow (Sagittarius).
Mithuna, the pair (Gemini).  
Makara, the sea monster (Capricorns).
Karkata, the crab (Cancer).  
Kumbha, the water pot (Aquarius).
Sinha, the lion (Leo).  
Mina, the fishes (Pisces).
Kanya, the maiden (Virgo).  
Rohini, the milkmaid (Cancer).
Tula, the scale (Libra).

But these are also known in some parts by another set of names preserving connection with lunar months—Chaitra, Vaisakha, Jaiistha, Ashara, Sravana, Bhadra, Asvina, Kartika, Margasirsa or Agarayan, Pausa, Magha and Phalgun.

The astronomical solar month runs from the moment of one Sankranti of the sun to the moment of the next Sankranti and as the signs of the Hindu zodiac are all of equal length, 30 degrees, while the speed of the sun varies according to the time of the year, the length of the month is variable.

The days of solar month begin with sun-rise. The days are named as follows: Raviyara, the day of sun (Sunday); Svarava, the day of the moon (Monday); Mangalvarya, the day of the Mars (Tuesday); Budhvarya, the day of Mercury (Wednesday); Brihaspativarya, the day of Jupiter (Thursday); Sukravarya, the day of Venus (Friday); Sanivaraya, the day of Saturn (Saturday).

The lunar year consists of primary 12 lunar months. It is of two principal varieties according as it begins with a certain day in the month of Chaitra or with the corresponding day in Kartika. The present names of the lunar months were derived from 12 out of the 27 Nakshatras, supposed to be companions of the Moon during 12 full-moon nights.

**Important Eras**—The beginnings of important eras are as follows—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.C.</th>
<th>Macedorian</th>
<th>Sept.</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>312</th>
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<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>5598</td>
<td>Augustan</td>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julian Period</td>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>4713</td>
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<td>Jewish</td>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>3761</td>
<td>A.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympiads</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation of Rome</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>Armenian</td>
<td>July 7</td>
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</tbody>
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**Names of Months**—January was named from Janus, god who presided over the beginning of everything. February from Februa, a festival of purification held in that month by the Romans. Maritus is the Mars, who was originally a god of agriculture, his month being the one when crops are ordinarily planted. The origin of April is not known. May is named from Maia, the mother of
Roman god Mercury. June is derived from Juno, the goddess of women and of marriage. July was formerly called quintilus from quintus, the fifth, but when Julius Caesar reformed the calendar, he changed the month's name to Julius in his own honour: Julius became July in English. August was originally called sextilis, afterwards was named August from the Emperor Augustus. Those from September to December are so called from the numbers Septem, 'seven', Octo, 'eight', November, 'nine' and December, 'ten'.

YEAR—Unit of time is marked by the revolution of the earth in its orbit round the sun. The Solar Year is 365 days 5 hours, 48 minutes 49.7 seconds. Calendar Year consists of 365 days, but a year the date of which is divisible by 4 without remainder is called Leap Year and consists of 366 days, one day being added to the month of February. The last year of a century is not leap year unless its number is divisible by 400, i.e., the years 1800 and 1900 had only 365 days. Tropical Year is the time that earth takes to revolve round the Sun from equinox to equinox or 365.2422 mean solar days. Sidereal Year in which the observation is made on a star is 365 days, 6 hrs. 9 mins. 9 secs.

TIME—Measurement of time is based on the time taken by earth to rotate on its axis (day); by moon to revolve round the earth (month); and by the earth to revolve round the sun (year). Day starts at midnight and is divided into 24 hours of 60 minutes, each of 60 seconds. The hours are counted from midnight up to 12 at noon and these hours are designated A.M. and again from noon up to 12 at midnight, which hours are designated P.M. The 24-hour reckoning, however, ignores A.M. and P.M. and the hours are numbered 0 to 23 from midnight to midnight.

Different ways of telling time—The usual division of the day into “A.M.” (ante meridian) and “P.M.” (post meridian) groups of 12 hours each has given way for same purposes to the “24-hour” day in many countries. On the “24-hour” clock the hour begins with zero at midnight and runs to 23; thus 1-30 P.M. is called 13:30 o’clock, it is simpler than the 12-hour system and makes calculation easier, and so on. This system is in general use on railway systems. Since astronomers and navigators use it for tables and records.

On ship board varieties of time are used. “Greenwich time” or time corresponding to that at Greenwich, England, is kept by an accurate chronometer for use in determining the ship’s position. The ship’s routine is, however, governed by “watches” and “bells.” The day is divided into six “watches”, commencing at noon and each watch is divided into eight parts marked by “bells.” One half an hour after a watch begins, “one bell” is struck. Half an hour later, or one hour after the commencement of watch, “two bells” strike, and so on up to “eight bells” when the watch changes and the bells strike all over again from one to eight.

Astronomers usually use sidereal time, which is fixed by observing the transits of the stars. A sidereal day is the period of one rotation of the earth upon its axis. It starts at noon and contains 24 hours 56 minutes and 4 seconds of mean solar time. A sidereal year contains 366½ sidereal days.
Local Time—When the system of local time is used, it is 12 o'clock (noon) at any region where the sun is at its highest point in the sky, and shadows are cast in a line extending north and south.

Greenwich Mean Time—The International Meridian Conference held in 1884 established the meridian passing through Greenwich, England, as the prime meridian, from which the world's time was to be reckoned. The world is considered as being divided into 24 zones each of 15° of arc, or one hour in time apart. The meridian of Greenwich (0°) extends through the centre of the initial zone and the zones to the eastwards are numbered from 1 to 12 with the prefix 'minus' indicating the number of hours to be subtracted to obtain Greenwich time. The zones to the westward are similarly numbered, but prefixed 'plus' showing the number of hours that must be added to get Greenwich time.

Time Zones—The 15 degree measurement divides Europe into three time-zones—Greenwich, Mid-European (one hour faster), East European (2 hours faster). United States and Canada are divided into five time-zones—Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific.

Examples of Zone System:—

Fast on Greenwich Time

**Greenwich** .. Great Britain, Ireland, Portugal, Algeria, Morocco, etc.
12 hrs. F .. Fiji, New Zealand.

9½ hrs. F .. South Australia.

9 hrs. F .. Manchuria, Japan, Korea.

8 hrs. F .. East China, Philippine Islands, West Australia, Indochina, Formosa.

7½ hrs. F .. Malaya, Singapour, Java.

6½ hrs. F .. Burma, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

6 hrs. F .. East Pakistan.

5½ hrs. F .. India, Ceylon.

4½ hrs. F .. West Pakistan.

3½ hrs. F .. Iran.

2 hrs. F .. (East European)
Turkey, Greece, Finland, Egypt, Israel, Syria, South Africa.

1 hr. F .. (Mid. European)
Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Germany, France, Austria, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia.

Slow on Greenwich Time

1 hr. S .. Iceland.

3 hrs. S .. Greenland, Uruguay, Argentina.

4 hrs. S .. (Atlantic) Canada, Central Brazil, Bolivia, Chile.

5 hrs. S .. (Eastern) E. States of U. S. A., Cuba, Panama, Colombia, Equador.

7 hrs. S .. (Mountain) Canada from 102°W to 120°W, Mountain States of U. S. A., part of Mexico.


10 hrs. S .. Central Alaska.

11 hrs. S .. Aleutian Is., West Coast Alaska, Samoa, Midway Islands.
Summer Time or Daylight Saving Time—Device to make more sunlight hours available for business, industry, leisure by setting all clocks forward one hour during summer, when the sun rises early, thus saving evening use of artificial light. This device was first used as national economy during World War I.

International Date Line—is an imaginary line extending north and south through Pacific Ocean, and is the point at which the traveller must add or subtract a day from the calendar. On a journey westward across the Pacific, he must add a day (for example, by changing Monday, the 17th to Tuesday, the 18th); when travelling eastward, he is required to set the date back one day, otherwise he will not be in accord with the local date when he returns to his starting place after making trip round the world.

Indian Standard Time—The Indian Standard Time which is 5½ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time was first adopted on 1st January 1906. It was based on the mean time of 82½°E longitude which passes through Banaras and Cocanada. Though it was used by Railways and Post and Telegraph Offices, Calcutta had its own time 24 minutes ahead of it. During World War II, a uniform time 6½ hours ahead of Greenwich time was adopted in India. India now observes Indian Standard Time, which is 5½ hours ahead of Greenwich.

Longest and Shortest days—Longest day is the day on which the sun attains its greatest distance from the equator, north or south, accordingly as the place is in the northern and southern hemisphere. In other words, it is the day of the calendar on which a Solstice falls. This generally falls on June 21. Similar considerations apply to the shortest day of the year which falls on December 22, or the day of the Winter Solstice.

Dog Days—The days about the heliacal rising of the Dog Star, noted from ancient times as the hottest and most unwelcome period of the year in the northern hemisphere. The period of dog days are generally July 3 to August 15.

HOLIDAYS

Hindu Festival—Durga Puja—A national festival in Bengal. The celebration signifies the triumph of good over evil and the subjection of animal passions by human beings. It is also symbolical of womanhood's strength and power to combat all forms of reaction. According to Puranas, a demon, Mahisasura, was threatening gods and men. Durga, the embodiment of Divine Power, took human form and bearing weapons in her ten hands slew the demon. Hence the form in which the goddess is worshipped is that of a warlike figure having ten arms and riding astride a lion. The goddess descends from her heavenly home, the Kailash, to visit her children on earth three days every year, accompanied by her two sons. Kartik, a great warrior, and Ganesh, the God of Prosperity and two daughters, Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth and Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning. On the fourth day, the immersion ceremony takes place and the image of the Goddess is consigned to the waters.
The tradition says that on the last day, Ramchandra of Ramayana offered special prayers to the Goddess and thus gained victory over Ravana, the Demon King of Lanka (Ceylon).

_Sivaratri_—Festival in honour of the Hindu God Siva, one of the Hindu Trinity. It takes place in the month of February-March.

_Holi_—Hindu festival in March. It marks the coming of the spring. The festival in general is held in honour of Krishna. The day is celebrated in greatest merriment and fun and coloured waters are thrown over relatives and other people. It is a great festival of northern India.

_Dussehra_—A festival of lights held in October-November. The festival is celebrated by means of illuminations and fireworks. In some States Hindu merchants begin their fresh account books. The legend says that its celebration began with the coronation of King Rama.

_Ganesh Chaturthi_—A great Hindu festival of the Western India generally takes place in September in honour of Hindu God Ganesh who is represented with four hands and an elephant's head. This festival is also known as Ganapati Day.

_Dusserah_—It is a great festival of northern India; it usually takes place in the month of September or October. The festival takes place in honour of the victory of Goddess (Devi) over the buffalo-headed demon Mahisasur. The festival takes place for nine days known as Navaratri. It also commemorates the victory of Rama over the demon king Ravana. In all important towns of northern India huge effigies of Ravana is made and burnt on the last day of the festival in great pomp and pageant.

_Saraswati Puja_—Usually takes place in the month of Magh (January-February) on the fifth day (Panchami) of the new moon. This day, according to Hindus, heralds the advent of spring. Saraswati is the Goddess of Learning.

_Christian Festival_—All Fools' day—The first day of April, when, from centuries throughout the Christendom it has been customary to place irresponsible tricks on one's neighbours.

_Arbor day_—Annual tree planting day is generally observed throughout U.S.A., in parts of Canada and Great Britain.

_Bank Holiday_—In Great Britain a secular day when by law banks are closed, and parties are exempt from presentment or payment of negotiable paper.

_Candlemas day_—In its ecclesiastical meaning Candlemas is the feast of purification of the Virgin Mary and is observed on February 2. This festival is strictly kept by Roman Catholic Church.

_Christmas_—Meaning Christ's Mass, is applied to the festival commemorating the birth of Christ celebrated on December 25. The exact date of Christ's birth is unknown. January 6 and December 28, however, were commonly chosen in the 4th century. The general adoption of December 25, first in the west and a little later in the east, dates from the 5th century.

_Easter_—The season which commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is universally regarded as the chief of Christian festivals. Christians believe that Jesus was crucified on Good
Friday and rose again from the dead after three days on Easter Monday.

**Good Friday**—The Friday before Easter Sunday, celebrated in commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus.

**Hallowe'en**—The name of the popular, boisterous autumn celebration means 'holy eve', the occasion being the eve of 'All Hallows' or 'All-Saints' Day', November 1. It has the Pagan origin.

**Lent**—A word from the Anglo-Saxon *eenten* meaning "spring-time". It is employed to denote the forty days preceding Easter, the period observed in the Catholic Church as a fast.

**St. Valentine's Day**—A festival which falls on February 14. The origin of the observance of this day is uncertain. Among the many interesting folk customs of medieval France and England, was a gathering of young people on St. Valentine's eve. 'Valentine' means sweet-heart.

**All Souls' Day**—Day of prayer for souls of the dead.

**Moslem Festival—Id-ul-Zuha or Bakr-id**—The festival commemorates the ordeal of Ismail and the miraculous way in which at the last moment Providence came to his rescue.

Hazrat Ibrahim, called Khalilulla, or the friend of God, was put to a terrible test when he was asked to sacrifice what was dearest to him, and he decided to offer the life of his beloved son Ismail. As he was on the point of applying the knife to Ismail's throat, it was revealed to him that this was meant only to test his faith and that he would, on opening his eyes, find a ram which he should sacrifice.

It has also a symbolical aspect: the sacrificial animal standing for the evil in human nature, which must be continually surrendered at the altar of God. This is celebrated on the 10th day of Zilhija.

**Mohurrum**—is a period of mourning and is observed annually in remembrance of the martyrdom of Hassan and Hussein, the grandsons of Prophet Mahomed, from whom the race of Syeds, the Muslim holmen is descended. Mohurrum is the name of the first month of the Muslim year but the mourning period lasts only for the first ten days. On the tenth day *labuts* or *tazyas* made of various materials are exhibited and conveyed in procession through the streets. The *tazyas* are in the shape of mausoleums erected over the remains of Hussain who is buried at Karbala, the battle-field of Arabia on which he lost his life.

**Akhir)], Chahar Sumbha**—held on the Wednesday of Safar when Mahomed recovered a little in his last illness and bathed for the last time.

**Sahi-barat**—(night of allotment)—held on the 16th Saaban when it is supposed that human deeds are measured and their needs allotted.

**Ramzan and Id-ul-Adha**—Ramzan is the ninth month of the Moslem lunar year and is holy because the Quoran was revealed in that month. The fact is ordained in a magnificent passage of the Quoran. The fast springs from Quoranic instructions for the better communion with God whom all men must honour and worship and that those instructions are obeyed by the faithful with the greatest devotion and loyalty. The period begins with the first sight of the new
ASTRONOMICAL DATA

moon of the month or if the day be overclouded and the moon invisible, on the completion of the thirty days from the previous moon. Each day’s fasting must begin so soon as daybreak permits a white thread to be discerned from a black thread and it continues till sunset.

Buddhist Festival—Full Moon of Vaisakha—is the thirce sacred day in the Buddhist calendar. On this day, under the spreading emerald canopy of the Sal tree in the beautiful gardens of Lumbini was born of queen Maya, Prince Siddhartha, the Buddha to be. It was on another Vaisakha Purnima day, when Tathagata attained “Bodhi” or enlightenment under a Bodhi Tree at Gaya. On a third Vaisakha Purnima eighty years after the first that Buddha attained Mahaparinirvan in Kosi.

Ashada Purnima—is in commemoration of the first sermon of the Buddha attained Mahaparinirvan in Kosi.

Vas Pavarana—(End of rainy season lent) is held in October.

ASTRONOMICAL DATA

SOLAR SYSTEM—The Solar system is a unit of the Universe consisting of the sun, the nine major planets, their satellites, the minor planets, comets, meteors and certain aggregates of small particles known as zodiacal light. These are all held in their places by the pull of the sun. They travel round the sun receiving and reflecting light and heat. There are also diffused bodies called comets, which revolve in highly elliptical orbits and develop tails when they are near the sun. The nine large planets are the most massive bodies in the solar system, next to the sun. These planets have thirty one satellites including our moon. The nine planets in order of their distances from the sun are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The planets differ greatly from one another in size. The smallest planet is Mercury, which is about one sixteenth the size of earth. Venus is almost as large as the earth but Mars is only one seventh as large. Saturn is 730 times as large as our planet. Uranus is sixty-four times as large and Neptune is sixty times as large as the earth. Jupiter is more than 1,300 times as large as the earth. Every planet has two motions. It revolves round the sun and at the same time it spins on its own axis.

Planes of the Solar System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planet</th>
<th>Mean Distance (miles of m. from sun)</th>
<th>Diameter in miles</th>
<th>No. of Satellites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>36,000,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venus</td>
<td>67,000,000</td>
<td>7,600</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>93,000,000</td>
<td>7,920</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planet</td>
<td>Mean Distance (miles of m. from sun)</td>
<td>Diameter in miles</td>
<td>No. of Satellites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>141,000,000</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jupiter</td>
<td>484,000,000</td>
<td>88,700</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturn</td>
<td>886,000,000</td>
<td>75,100</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uranus</td>
<td>1,782,000,000</td>
<td>30,900</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neptune</td>
<td>2,794,000,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pluto</td>
<td>3,670,000,000</td>
<td>C3,650</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUN**—There are countless millions of far-distant self-luminous gaseous bodies called stars, and each one is in itself a sun. Our sun is the centre of the solar system and the closest star to the earth. It appears brighter and larger than any other stars because of its comparative nearness—a distance of 93 million miles compared to 25 trillion miles of the next closest star. Physically the sun is a huge ball of glowing gas and incandescent vapours with an average surface temperature of approximately 6,000°C (11,000°F) increasing to an estimated 10,000,000°C or more deep in the interior. The sun is 865,370 miles in diameter; its mass is 333,434 times and its volume more than 1,000,000 times that of the earth. By the force of its gravitational attraction, the sun keeps the planets in their regular orbits and pulls them with it through space at the rate of about 12 miles per second. Isolated dark areas in the sun, first observed telescopically by Galileo, although known through naked eye observations by the ancient Chinese, are called sun-spots. These are huge whirling vortices in the solar atmosphere, representing zones of intense disturbance. They appear dark in comparison with the general surface of the sun because they are cooler than this surface.

**EARTH**—The earth is about 93,000,000 miles from the Sun. It travels 19 miles per second as it speeds round the sun (once in 3651/4 days). It has an area of about 197,000,000 sq. m. The circumference at the equator is 24,902.39 miles and through the poles is 24,860.49 miles. Diameter at the equator is 7,926.67 miles. Besides spinning on its axis, the earth moves round the sun. The path of the earth round the sun called its orbit, is not a circle but an oval or ellipse and the plane in which the Earth moves is said to be Plane of the Ecliptic. The time taken to complete one revolution round the sun is one year, i.e., 3651/4 days approximately. The seasons are due to the changes of the earth’s position in the course of its revolution about the sun and to the inclination of its axis.

**MOON**—is the only satellite of the earth, round which it revolves in 27.32 days at a mean distance of 238,860 miles. It has no atmosphere, and it shines entirely by the reflected light of the sun. The moon has much to do with our tides, its gravitational attraction piling up water on the earth’s surface.

**OTHER PLANETS**—*Mercury* is the smallest of the major planets and the one nearest the sun. Its diameter is about 3,000 m., its period of revolution is 88 days and its distance from the sun varies...
from 22,500,000 to 43,350,000 m. Venus is second of the planets in order of distance from the sun. Its mean distance from the latter is 67,200,000 m., and it revolves in its orbit in 225 days. Its diameter is about 7,600 m. It is the evening star seen in the western sky. Mars has a mean distance of 141,650,000 m. from the sun. Its mass is only about one-tenth that of the earth and its diameter is little more than half. Its period of rotation is 24 hrs. 37 min. 23 secs. It has two very small satellites. It is the planet which scientists believe is most likely to have animal life. Jupiter is the largest of the planets with 12 known satellites. Its mean distance from the sun is 483 million miles and its time of revolution is 11.86 years. Its diameter is 11 times that of the earth. It rotates on its axis in a less than 10 hours. Saturn's mean distance from the sun is about 886,000,000 m., and it has a unique set of planetoid rings and at least 12 satellites. Uranus was discovered by Herschel in 1781. Its diameter is 30,000 m. and it revolves once round the sun from which it is 1,782,800,000 m. distant, in 84.02 years. It has four main satellites. Neptune has a diameter of 31,000 m. The distance from the sun is 2,793½ million m. Neptune has one satellite and the time taken for one revolution round the sun is 164.8 years. Pluto is the outermost of the known planets. Its distance from the sun is about 3,700 million miles with a 248-year revolution period.

ASTEROIDS—are also called minor planets. They are of small bodies which revolve round the sun in orbits lying between those of Mars and Jupiter. Known asteroids now number over 1,500. New ones are constantly being discovered. The largest is Ceres, 485 miles in diameter. Some of these celestial bodies are perhaps nothing more than great masses of rock flying round the sun. The largest asteroids are: Ceres, 485 miles in diameter, Pallas 280, Juno 150 and Vesta 241 (miles).

COMETS—A heavenly body of a luminous and nebulous appearance that moves round the sun in an orbit that is normally elongated ellipse. A comet consists of three parts: the nucleus or head, which contains an enormous number of small bodies, some like dust particles and others probably many yards in diameter; the coma which surrounds the nucleus is of a gaseous nature; and the tail which consists of small dust-like particles carried away from the nucleus by the gases in the coma and then repelled by sunlight. The tail sometimes looks formidable and it may be many millions of miles in length, but it is quite harmless and sometimes the earth has passed through the tail of a comet without ill effect. About 1,000 comets are known. A few comets travel in hyperbolic orbits, never returning, but most comets return over a period of years. The most famous is Halley's Comet which can be seen every seventy years.

METEORS—Meteors are pieces of matter which fall to earth out of space. They plunge into earth's atmosphere at great speed and become incandescent from the resultant friction, so that they are seen in the sky as fireballs or "shooting stars". The majority of meteors are burned up long before they strike the earth's surface and those which reach the ground are known as meteorites. Millions
of them enter our atmosphere every twenty-four hours and probably not more than one or two a day survive to strike the ground as meteorites. Hence meteors which reach the earth are called meteorites. The largest meteorite ever found is located near Grootfontein, South-West Africa, which weights between 50 and 70 tons. The second largest meteorite (weight 36½ tons) was found at Cape York, Greenland.

CONSTELLATIONS—groups of fixed stars named after a mythological person, animal, etc. It must have been that earliest observers, several thousand years B.C., who recorded that the ‘fixed’ stars are not scattered uniformly over the sky but appear to be grouped into figures, now named constellations. This confines us to stars visible to the naked eye, and also those of Milky Way. The constellations covering the whole celestial sphere are divided into three groups according to the regions in which they are seen—the Northern, the Southern and the Zodiacal.

SATELLITES—The secondary bodies which revolve around the planets, as the planets revolve around the sun, are called satellites. With the exception of Mercury and Venus, all of the planets are accompanied by one or more satellites. Earth has one satellite, moon; Mars has two; Jupiter twelve; Saturn nine; Uranus five; and Neptune two.

STARS—are luminous heavenly bodies, so far distant from the solar system that the light from the nearest star travelling at the speed of 186,000 miles per second, takes four years to reach the earth. Unlike the planets, the stars shine by their own light. Stars are suns. Some of the stars are brighter and some of them are fainter than our own sun. The total number of stars is probably in the neighbourhood of three to four billion; a person with good eyesight can see about 3,000 stars at any one time on a clear night. The stars ‘twinkle’ as we gaze at them. This twinkling is caused by refraction through the earth’s atmosphere.

**First Magnitude Stars**

*in order of brightness*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance in Light-years*</th>
<th>Sirius</th>
<th>8.6</th>
<th>Altair</th>
<th>16</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canopus</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Betelgeuse</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alpha Centauri</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Aldebaran</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vega</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Spica</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capella</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Pollux</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arcturus</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Antares</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rigel</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Fomalhaut</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Procyon</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>Deneb</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Achernar</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Alpha Crucis</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beta Centauri</td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Light Year = 5,880,000,000,000 miles.*
POLAR AURORAS—The Aurora Borealis (northern lights) and Aurora Australis (southern lights) are luminous atmospheric phenomena which occur in the Arctic and Antarctic regions respectively. They are patches of light, quivering beams or immense 'curtains' with swaying folds appearing in the night sky. They may be white, red, yellow, green, violet. It has been definitely established that sun-spots are the direct cause of these polar auroras. Sun-spots are magnetic storms of vast dimensions on the surface of the sun and they shoot out electrified particles into space. Those that come toward the earth are drawn toward the earth’s magnetic poles and consequently these magnetic poles are the radiating centres of those electromagnetic waves in the sky that we commonly call Northern Lights or Southern Lights, depending upon whether we see them in the northern or southern hemisphere.

MILKY WAY—Milky Way is a hazy, somewhat irregular band of light about 20” wide which completely encircles the heavens and consists of dense clouds of stars. It is seen on clear, moonless summer evenings stretching entirely across the northern sky.

ATMOSPHERE—The atmosphere is composed of air which surrounds or envelopes the whole earth. It is sometimes likened to a great sea of gases, at the bottom of which we live. This air which surrounds the globe affects the light that comes to us from heavenly bodies. It refracts (bends or changes the direction) light rays that enter it. Due to this refraction, we see the Sun and the Moon before they rise and after they set. The ‘twinkling’ of the stars is caused by convection currents in the air that have rapidly changing refractive effect on the light from the stars. Our twilight is produced by the diffusion in the atmosphere of light from the Sun when it is below the horizon. Chemically the atmosphere is composed of nitrogen, oxygen and extremely minor amounts of argon, neon, helium, hydrogen and carbon dioxide.