



KNOW YOUR

NATIONAL FLAG

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FLAG FOUNDATION INDIA
www.flagfoundationofindia.in





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First Published in 2013

by

FLAG FOUNDATION OF INDIA

12, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi



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Preface

Independent India's National-flag, the Tiranga, came into existence on July 22, 1947. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru described it as 'a flag of freedom' while moving the resolution on the flag in the Constituent Assembly. And, for the first time in the long history of the nation, Indians could look up with pride and honour at their country's flag. However, to their utter dismay, ordinary citizens soon realized that they did not have the right to fly the Tiranga on all days of the year. The display of the National-flag was the exclusive privilege of certain senior government dignitaries as mentioned in the Flag Code of India. The Tiranga was perceived as a flag of government authority and not as the ordinary citizen's tribute to nationhood.

It is heartening to note that from January 26, 2002, after fifty-five years of independence, Indian citizens were permitted to fly their National-flag throughout the year. This was the result of a long and protracted legal battle by Sh. Naveen Jindal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament. On





January 23, 2004 in a historic judgment, the Honourable Supreme Court held that the right to fly the National-flag freely, with respect and dignity, was a Fundamental Right.

The Tiranga has always been a great source of inspiration for all of us throughout our contemporary history. It reminds us of our duties towards our country. When a company flies the national flag at its office or factory premises, it becomes a source of genuine inspiration for the workers and the staff, who feel that they are working not just for the company or factory, but for the country as well. It is a symbolic way of placing national interest ahead of everything.

When we hoist our National-flag, we rise above our religion, regional and political affiliations and show our love for the nation. We feel a sense of pride as the flag unfurls in front of our eyes to reveal its vibrant colours. Display of the Tiranga, our National-flag, is a way of expressing our love for, and faith in, our nation.





Acknowledgements

I thankfully acknowledge the valuable information given to me by the then Her Excellency Sujatha Singh, the High Commissioner of India in Australia (now Foreign Secretary, Government of India) regarding the first hoisting of the Tiranga in Australia in 15th August, 1947.

I am also grateful to Mr. Sanjay Kumar for his devotedly typing out the draft-manuscript and finally type-setting it to its present format to make it more readable and also for creating the book cover.

I, sincerely acknowledge the co-operation and help given to me by them in bringing out the book.

Lt Cdr. KV Singh, (Retd.)





From the Author

As the Chief Executive of the Flag Foundation of India, I regularly meet, interact and discuss matters related to our National Flag with senior bureaucrats, politicians, military brasses, heads of educational institutions, activists and other individuals. During my interactions with them, I have often noticed that most people do not have adequate information on the subject. To fill up this vacuum of knowledge on the National Flag, the Flag Foundation of India has made consistent efforts to bring out various books on this subject. This book brings out 127 facts on the Indian Flag in the form of an interesting question and answer quiz format. It is the result of 20 years of quest and passion for the Indian National-flag. I have tried to support and supplement the information with relevant and rare photographs. Hope readers will find the book enjoyable and informative.





The sole objective of this book is to make more and more people aware of the National-flag of the country. Please share your thoughts with us at www.flagfoundationofindia.in

LT CDR. KV SINGH, Retd.
15th May, 2013
Mob. 09958599357





Questions & Answers
About
THE FLAG OF INDIA



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Genesis

1

1 What is the difference between a flag and National-flag?

Ans. A flag is a piece of cloth attached to a flagpole, representing a clan, community, army, office of authority, industrial house or an individual. In modern times a flag is commonly rectangular varying in size, colour and the design on it.

On the contrary, a National-flag is more than a piece of cloth. It is the most solemn and constitutionally or traditionally authorized symbol of a country. It represents the whole country, the entire nation, its ideals, hopes, aspirations and the pride. People throughout the history of mankind have laid down life for their National-flag, as it is the strongest patriotic symbol.

2. What is the nickname of our National-flag?

Ans. We fondly call our flag *Tiranga*, meaning having three colours. The nickname, however, is a misnomer because the flag in fact has four colours



not three as is commonly understood. The fourth colour blue of the Chakra is often not mentioned being a secondary colour in the flag.

3. When was the National-flag for Independent India adopted?

Ans. After the British government declared to free India on the 15th of August 1947, Indian leaders realized the need to have a National-flag for Independent India. Accordingly, an ad-hoc Flag Committee was formed to finalize the Flag. On its recommendation the Constituent Assembly on 22nd July 1947 adopted the Tiranga as the National-flag for free-India.

4. Name the person, whose design of the National-flag for free-India was finally accepted by the Constituent Assembly in 1947.

Ans. The design of the National-flag for Independent India submitted by Mrs. Suriaya Badr-ud-Din Tyabi was finally approved and accepted by the Flag Committee on 17th July 1947. She was an artist of repute and her husband B.H.F. Tyabji (ICS) was then a Deputy Secretary in the Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly.

5. After India became an independent State, where did the first outdoor official flag hoisting take place in the world on the 15th of August, 1947?

Ans. The first outdoor official flag hoisting of Tiranga on the 15th of August 1947, took place in



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presenting a sample of the TIRANGA to the Constituent Assembly on 22 July, 1947

Canberra, Australia at the residence of Sir Raghunath Paranype, the High Commission of India in Australia at 1200 hrs local time and at 0730hrs IST which means three hours in advance of the first flag hoisting in India that took place at 10:30AM on the day at the present day Parliament House.

6. **The National Anthem of India “Jana-Gana-Mana” was adopted on the 24th of January, 1950 then which anthem was played / sung at the UN Headquarters in Washington on the 15th of August, 1947, when the Tiranga was first hoisted there amidst the flags of other free nations of the world?**

Ans. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose’s version of “Jana-Gana-Mana” was played at the UN HQ’s as the National Anthem of India. Netaji had recorded the song as his army’s anthem while he was in Germany. The UN HQ’s had a disc of the song available with them and the same was played by the UN orchestra while hoisting the Tiranga. Interestingly, Jana-Gana-Mana by then had not being adopted as the National Anthem of India.

7. **On the midnight of the 14-15 August, 1947 after the official declaration of India’s Independence in the Central Hall of the Council House (now known as Parliament House) a lady leading a group of 72 women**

had presented the first Tiranga to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Chariman of the Constituent Assembly. Name the lady.

Ans. She was Mrs. Hansa Mehta from Gujarat, an educationist, orator and a freedom fighter who was imprisoned several times by the British India Government. She was known in her circle as a dictator. Mrs. Mehta died at the age of 98 in Bombay in 1995.



Mrs. Hansa Mehta

8. Who said in the Council House on the midnight of the 14th-15th of August, 1947, "It is in the fitness of things that the first flag of free-India that is to fly over this August House should be a gift from the women of India"?

Ans. It was Mrs. Hansa Mehta who made this emotional statement, while presenting the first Tiranga to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

9. **Where did the first flag hoisting take place in India after the first Indian government took the oath of office on the 15th of August 1947?**

Ans: At the Council House (now known as Parliament House) at 10:30am. The Union Jack there was lowered for the last time personally by Lord Louis Mountbatten, the first Governor General of India, giving way to the Tiranga, which was raised for the first time on the flagmast by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

10. **When was Tiranga unfurled for the first time on the ramparts of the Red Fort after Independence?**

Ans. On the 16th of August 1947, which was a Saturday, at 8.30 A.M. On the 15th of August as both, the



first Governor General of India and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime-Minister of India were pre-occupied with many other inevitable official formalities, the flag hoisting at Red Fort was planned and executed on the next day i.e., 16th August 1947.

11. Where was Tiranga first publically hoisted in New Delhi on the 15th of August, 1947?

Ans. The first public flag hoisting took place at the Princess Park near India Gate, New Delhi in the afternoon of 15th of August 1947. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru did the honour of hoisting the Tiranga. Mysteriously, as the Tiranga was unfurled a rainbow appeared on the skyline. The rare



The first public flag hoisting ceremony was held at Princess Park, near India Gate, in the afternoon of 15 of August, 1947



Lord Louis Mountbatten saluting the flag of Free India in the afternoon of 15th August 1947, during the first public flag hoisting ceremony held at Princess Park, India Gate, New Delhi

occurrence amazed many including, Lord Louis Mountbatten whose carriage could not reach up to the dias due to the exuberant and unmanageable crowd that came to witness the ceremony.

12. How many colours are there in our National-flag?

Ans. There are four colours in our Flag; the saffron, white and the green as principal colours, and the navy blue of the Ashok Chakra is the secondary colour.

13. What are the official names of the Saffron and Green, the two principal colours used in our National-flag?

Ans. The official name for saffron is "India-Saffron" and for green it is "India-Green". While describing the colours of our flag to any international organization, the two colours are to be described and specified as explained because the two colours have many shades. Hence, we specify the two colours as India-Saffron and India-Green.

14. What is the significance of the Saffron colour in our Flag?

Ans. The Saffron stands for courage, sacrifice, valour and the spirit of renunciation. It points to both wisdom and action. The colour also represents the scorched condition of the earth caused by the torrid heat of the Indian sun. It is the colour of spiritual life lead by sadhus, saints, pirs, fakirs and pundits.

15. What is the significance of the White colour in our Flag ?

Ans. The White in Tiranga stands for purity. It is symbolic of the sun's rays and thus denotes the path of light. It is also for peace and tranquility. The White of the Flag as well represents every religion and every language in the country.

16. What is the significance of the Green colour in our Flag?

Ans. The Green is for growth and also denotes our relation with earth. Hence, it is the colour of vegetation, agriculture and plant life on which all other life depends. The Green also stands for hope and largely we live on hope.

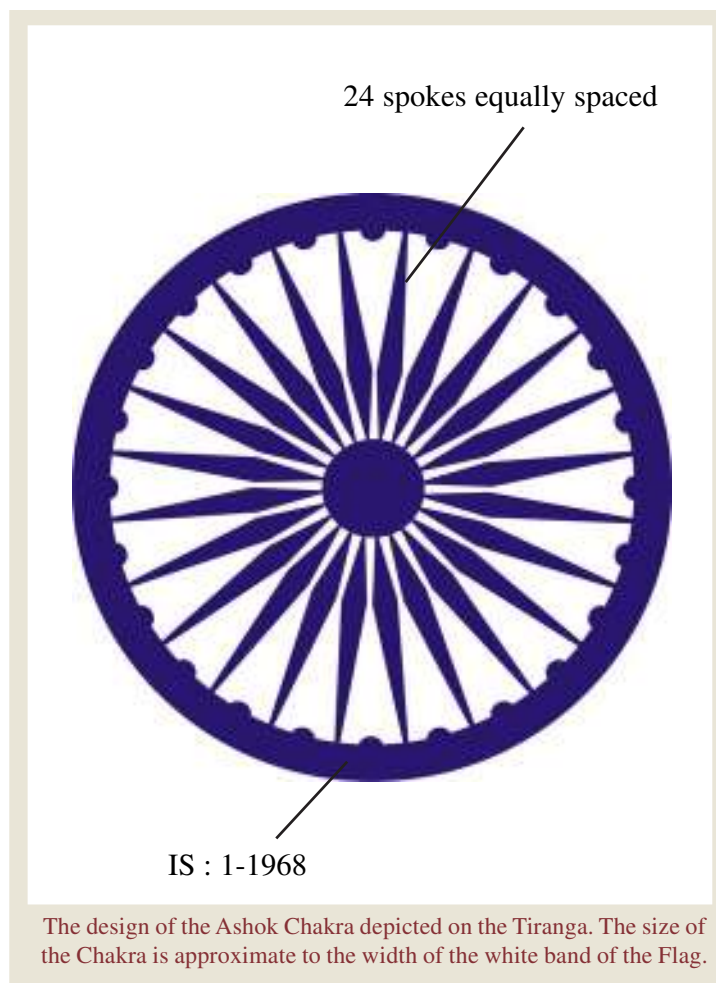
17. What is the significance of the Blue colour in our Flag?

Ans. The Blue in our flag signifies the boundless sky above and the fathomless sea below. The Blue also implies inner energy. The Chakra with its 24 spokes suggests continual progress of the country.

18. What is the significance of the Ashok Chakra as shown in our Flag?

Ans. The wheel has been used since ancient times in India as a solar symbol. In July 1947, the Flag Committee chose the Ashoka's Dharma Chakra for the reason that amongst all the chakras that came to their mind the "Sarnath Chakra" was the

most beautiful and artistic. On the flag, it signifies India's continual progress and growth.



19. How many spokes are there in the Ashok Chakra on the centre band of the Flag?

Ans. There are 24 equally spaced spokes in the Chakra, signifying the 24 hours of the day.

20. In which colour is the Ashok Chakra printed or embroidered on the Flag?

Ans. The Ashok Chakra in the centre on the white band of our flag is in navy blue.

21. Which colours are mixed to form the Saffron in our Flag?

Ans. Red and yellow colours are mixed in a particular ratio to form the Saffron shade of our flag. Philosophically, the red denotes both valour and action whereas the yellow stands for wisdom.

22. Who suggested, the Ashok Chakra in lieu of the Charkha, to the Flag Committee, while adopting the Tiranga in July, 1947?

Ans. The Ashok Chakra in place of the Charkha, which was in use earlier during our struggle for freedom, on the flag for Free-India was suggested to the Flag-Committee by Mr. Badr-ud-Din H.F.Tyabji, a Deputy Secretariat in the Constituent Assembly and the grandson of the great Tyabji who was once the President of the Indian National Congress. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the chairman of the Committee advised him to consult Gandhiji on the proposal to replace the Charkha with

Chakra. Gandhiji wanted to see for himself the look of the change before consenting. Mr. Tyabji's wife prepared a sample by painting the Chakra on the white band of a sample flag. Gandhiji was happy with the proposed change and the Flag-Committee adopted the Chakra on the flag in place of Charkha.

23. If the length of our National-flag is 18 feet, what will be its width?

Ans. It will be 12 feet.

24. What is the ratio of the length to the width of our National-flag?

Ans. The ratio of the width to the length of the Flag shall ordinarily be two breadths to three breadths. In other words, the ratio is 2 : 3.

25. Which type of fabric can be used for manufacturing the Tiranga to be used by general public?

Ans. Flags meant to be used by general public can be made of any fabric, preferably with hand-spun cotton or silk Khadi. Earlier it was mandatory to be of only Khadi.

26. What type of fabric is to be used for manufacturing Tirangas meant for government offices, its agencies and government officials?

Ans. The flags meant to be used on government buildings are to be mandatorily made only of hand-spun

cotton or silk Khadi. Even the stitching thread has to be Khadi for such flags.

27. **How many standard sizes of our National-flag are there as per the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Flag Code of India?**

Ans. As per the Flag Code of India and the Indian Bureau of Standards there are nine standard sizes of our National-flag. Earlier, they were only five which were later increased to seven. Flags of larger dimension can be made keeping the ration of 3:2.

THE NINE STANDARD SIZES OF THE FLAG

Sr. No.	Dimensions		Generally Used on
	In feet & Inches	In MM	
1.	21' x 14'	6300 x 4200	On high flagmasts/domes
2.	12' x 8'	3600 x 2400	Red Fort (Delhi), Rashtrapati Bhawan, gun carriage
3.	9' x 6'	2700 x 1800	Parliament House and other medium size public buildings
4.	6' x 4'	1800 x 1200	Small size public buildings and during State and military funerals
5.	4.5' x 3'	1350 x 900	Smaller size public buildings
6.	3' x 2'	900 x 600	In rooms on cross bars against walls
7.	18" x 12"	450 x 300	VVIPs' aircraft and President's train
8.	9" x 6"	225 x 150	VVIPs' motor cars
9.	6" x 4"	150 x 100	Used as table flags

Rules, Regulations, Etiquettes & Protocols

2

28. Name the official book / booklet that lays down the Code for the use of our National-flag?

Ans. It is the 'Flag Code of India'.

29. Can you fly your National-flag at your home or at your work place on all the 365 days of the year?

Ans. Yes. In 2002, the Government of India had allowed citizens to fly the National-flag on all days, but by then it was not a Fundamental Right.

30. Between what time to what time is the National-flag normally flown during day time?

Ans. The Flag is normally flown between sunrise and sunset.

31. On what occasions do we fly the National-flag at half-mast?

Ans. In the event of death of certain dignitaries recognized by the centre/state governments, the National-flag shall be half-mast at certain places and for specified days.



Tiranga at half-mast on Anand Bhawan, Allahabad, on the death of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on May 27, 1965

32. Name a few VVIP'S who can fly the National-flag on their car?

Ans. The President and Prime-Minister of India, Judges of the Supreme Court, Indian Ambassadors appointed in foreign lands, etc. can fly the National-flag on their car.

33. Can you fly a miniature National-flag inside your car?

Ans. Yes, Indian citizens can fly the National-flag inside their car on the dash board or on the wind screen.



When the National-flag is displayed on a VVIP's motor car, it shall be flown from a staff affixed firmly to the car in the middle front or to the right of the bonnet of the car.



Indian citizens can display the National-flag inside their car on dashboard and wind screen, but not outside on the car.



34. Can you write a patriotic slogan or a message on the face of our National-flag?

Ans. No, lettering of any kind is not to be put upon the Flag.

**INCORRECT
DISPLAY**

Inscriptions or lettering of any kind should not be done on the National-flag as it is not a canvas, rather the solemn most symbol of the nation.



35. Can you print, stitch, embroider Tiranga as a part of your dress or costume? If yes, is there any restriction?

Ans. Yes, you can do so, but not below the waistline.



Since 2005, the government has allowed display of the National-flag above waistline on T-shirts, costumes, dresses, etc. Earlier the flag could not form part of any costume or dress.



Proper way to drape the Flag over a military casket or coffin, accorded military honours.

Proper way to drape the Flag over a civilian dignitary's casket or coffin, accorded State funeral.



36. Can you embroider or print the image of Tiranga on cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins or undergarments, etc?

Ans. No, it is not allowed nor is it desirable.

37. How is an old, unclean, multilated or torn National-flag disposed off ?

Ans. It is destroyed in whole in private preferably by burning or by any other method consistent with the dignity of the Flag such as burying it deep with respect or by immersing it into the Ganga duly folded.

38. While using the Tiranga on a dead body, how is the Flag placed on the body—horizontally or vertically?

Ans. It is placed horizontally on the chest of the deceased. The saffron band is to touch the neck of the body. The flag must not be placed over the body or coffin like a Chadar to avoid touching the feet of the deceased.

39. How is the Flag placed on the dead body of a person disposed off?

Ans. The flag placed on a dead body is destroyed in private, away from public gaze preferably by burning or burying it deep or immersing it into the Gange.

40. Can a Judge of a High Court fly the National-flag on his/her car?

Ans. Yes, the High Court judges can now fly the National-flag on their car. Earlier, they were not allowed to do so.

41. Can the National-flag be flown during night? if yes, what are the restrictions?

Ans. The Flag can be flown during night hours provided, it is on a 100ft or above flagpole and is adequately illuminated.

An illuminated National-flag at JSPL's Raigarh factory. Since December 2009, the Home Ministry has allowed flying of the flag at night on 100ft and above high flagpoles,



42. **On a day when it is raining heavily do you have to lower the National-flag?**

Ans. No, the Flag is to fly between sunrise and sunset regardless of weather conditions.

43. **When the Tiranga is to be flown with the National-flag of another country which side will the Tiranga be placed or flown – to the right or to the left?**

Ans. While flying Tiranga besides another country's National-flag, it will be placed / flown to the left as one looks at it.



The National-flag should always be displayed to the left of the viewer

44. In case of death of a VVIP on 25th January or 14th August, or 1st October and a 7 day state mourning is declared, will the Flag fly half-mast the next day on 26th of January, 15th August, or 2nd October as the case may be?

Ans. No, in a such a case, the Flag will fly full-mast on 26th January, the Republic Day similarly on 15th August, the Independence Day and on the Gandhi Jayanti Day.

45. In case of death of a VVIP on Republic Day 26th of January or on Independence day 15th of August or on 2nd of October and a state mourning is declared by the Government, will the Flag fly half-mast on the day?

Ans. No, it will fly full-mast, except on the building where the dead body lies in State. And as the body is removed from there for cremation, the flag will be raised full-mast on the building

46 . When state mourning is declared by the Government on the death of a VVIP are the members of public suppose to fly the Flag at half-mast?

Ans. No, the general public is not suppose to half-mast the flag; however, they may do so at their discretion. It is so because the Flag is to be half-masted only on Govt. buildings on receiving instructions from the Government. Since no instructions are issued to public to half mast the flag, members of public are not obliged to do so.

47. **As per convention all jail buildings are suppose to fly the National-flag. After an execution of a prisoner in a particular jail, how will the Flag fly—half-mast or full-mast on the day?**

Ans. The flag will fly full-mast on the jail building after execution of a prisoner . However, earlier it used to fly half-mast. In the Navy, if there is a death on board a ship while on the high sea her ensign is half-masted.

48. **When a foreign dignitary travels in a car provided by the Government of India or by a State Govern-ment, on which side of the car will the Indian National-flag be flown ?**

Ans. On the right side of the car and on the left side, the National-flag of the dignitary's country will be flown.

49. **When our National-flag is flown with the United Nation's Flag, on which side of it will the Tiranga fly?**

Ans. When the Tiranga is flown besides the UN Flag, it can be flown on either side of it.



Tiranga may be flown on either side of the UN Flag as shown above.

History : Evolution of Our Flag

3

50. During the First War of Independence in 1857, what were the motifs (design) on the revolt-flag of Bahadurshah Zafar?

Ans. The green revolt flag of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar had a full bloomed 'Lotus' in the first



The revolt flag of Bahadur Shah Zafar used during the First War of Independence.

quadrant of the flag and a 'Roti' on the lower fly of the flag. According to some scholars, the flag had only the rising sun in the centre of the flag.

51. **In Indian history, there had never been a National-flag for the whole of India. During our struggle for freedom, who first conceived a National-flag for India?**

Ans. It was Sister Nivedita, an Irish disciple of Swami Vivekananda who first conceived a National-flag for all of India in 1905. The Flag is preserved in the Acharya Bhavan Museum, Kolkata.

The flag of Sister Nivedita was square in shape with 108 Jyotis, each side had 27 Jyotis on its border.



52. **Before Independence during our struggle for freedom where was a tri-colour first hoisted in India?**

Ans. The first tricolour raised during our struggle for freedom was hoisted on 9th August 1906 in Calcutta (now Kolkata) at the Greer Park in Parsi Bagan.

The Calcutta Flag



53. Name the lady who displayed a tricolour in Germany on 22nd August, 1907 during our struggle for freedom?

Ans. Madam Bhikaji Cama, who displayed a tricolour at Stuttgart, Germany during an International Congress. The flag is preserved in the library of 'Kesari' Pune.



The flag of Madam Bhikaji Cama, was inspired by the Calcutta-flag.



Pencil sketch of Madam Bhikaiji Cama displaying her flag

54. Which Indian political party used a mini Union Jack as part of its flag during our struggle for freedom?

Ans. The flag of the Home Rule League (1916) had a mini Union Jack on their party's flag in its first quadrant.

The flag of Home Rule League (1916)



55. Name the flag designed by Mrs. Annie Besant during the early years of our struggle for freedom?

Ans. The flag designed by Mrs. Annie Besant was known as 'The Home Rule League's Flag'.

56. Who prepared a tricolour flag as per Gandhi's directions in 1921 at the Bijayawada Congress Session?

Ans. It was Pingley Venkayya, who designed the first ever "Charkha-Jhanda" in white, green and red as per the instructions of Gandhiji in 1921 at Bijawada (now Vijayawada).



The first flag of Indian Freedom Movement as designed by Pingley Venkayya (1921), commonly known as "Swaraj-flag"

57. **During our struggle for freedom in 1923 a very significant 'Andolan' about the Flag had taken place. By what name was that 'Andolan' known?**

Ans. The 1923 Andolan is known as the "Jhanda Andolan".

58. **Who wrote the book "A National Flag for India"?**

Ans. Pingley Venkayya, who was greatly enthused about designing a flag for the whole of India.

59. **Who suggested the 'Charkha' as a motif to Gandhiji on the flag of the Indian National Congress in 1921?**

Ans. Raizada Hans Raj of Jalandhar, Punjab, had suggested, the inclusion of the Charkha on the first ever Congress flag, representing the common man of India.



Pingley Venkayya, father of the first Indian National Congress Flag. He was born in Baltapenumarru village, Andhra Pradesh. He did not design the National-flag Tiranga, adopted on 22nd July, 1947.

60. Which flag was officially adopted in 1931 as the flag of the Indian National Congress?

Ans. The Indian National Congress adopted a tricolour horizontally arranged in saffron, white and green



The officially adopted flag of the Indian National congress (1931).

in the order with a small 'Charkha' in dark blue in the centre on the white stripe of the flag. The flag replaced the earlier Swaraj or the Gandhi Flag with a large Charkha.

61. Who wrote the celebrated flag-song "*Vijayee Vishwa Tiranga Pyara, Jhanda Uncha Rahe Humara*"?

Ans. It was 'Shyam Lal Gupt Parshad' of Kanpur who penned this soul-stirring song that was first publically sung on 13 April, 1924 at Phoolbagh, Kanpur, U.P.



Shyam Lal Gupt
'Parshad'

62. **What was the motif (design) on the Tricolour used by Subhash Chandra Bose for his Indian Legion, founded in Berlin, Germany in 1941?**

Ans. The flag of the Indian Legion, founded by Subhash Chandra Bose in 1941 in Germany, had a 'Springing Tiger' as its motif.



The flag of Indian Legion founded in Germany by Subhash Chandra Bose in 1941.

63. **What legend/slogan was written on the central yellow band of the Tiranga hoisted in Kolkata in August 1906?**

Ans. The Calcutta (Kolkata) flag had 'Vande Mataram' in Devnagiri written on its centre yellow band in blue.



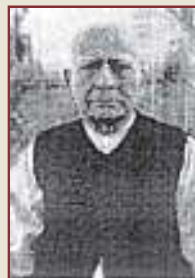
A post-independence calendar (1948) depicting Subhash Chandra Bose with the Tiranga and a representation of Mother India.

64. Name the flag that had the image of a large Charkha covering its three white, green and red bands and was used during our freedom struggle.

Ans. It was variedly known as the Swaraj-Flag, Gandhiji-flag and also the Charkha-flag. This was the first flag used by the Indian National Congress during the freedom struggle between 1921 and 1931 .

Who Suggested the Charkha?

Raizada Hans Raj of Jullundur, Punjab, suggested to Gandhiji in 1921, the inclusion of the Charkha on the Congree-flag to represent the common man of India. Gandhiji accepted the suggestion & decided the colours and their order on the flag — white, green and red.



Half-mast

The term half-mast is a misnomer as the flag is not lowered literally midway between the top and the bottom of the flagpole, but at a distance down from the tuckhead equivalent to the measurement of the breath of the flag.

This custom dates back to 1912 and originated in Spain when its Navy lowered its flag at half-mast to mourn the death of its Admiral in a sea battle. The half space left above on the pole is for the Flag of the Lord of Death, as per belief.

Miscellaneous

4

65. When was the Tiranga first flown on the Mount Everest?

Ans. On 29th May 1953 when the world famous highest peak was scaled for the first time. Tiranga along with the UN, Union Jack and the fish-tailed Nepalese National-flag was flown on the Mount Everest. The flag is preserved in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum, New Delhi.

66. After India became a free nation in 1947 when was the Tiranga hoisted for the first time on the Light House on the island of Minicoy in Lakshadweep?

Ans. On 2nd April 1956. For about nine years after India became independent the Light House authorities remained ignorant about India's independence, hence they continued to fly the Union Jack till 1956.

67. Name the Indian, who planted the Tiranga for the first time on the North Pole?

Ans. Squadron Leader Sanjay Thapa planted the Tiranga for the first time at the North Pole on 6th August, 1997.



Squadron Leader Sanjay Thapar planting the Tiranga at the North Pole

68. Name the Indian who planted the Tiranga on the South pole?

Ans. Col. J.K.Bajaj planted the Tiranga for the first time on the South Pole on 17th January, 1989.

Col. J.K. Bajaj with the Indian Tricolour at the South Pole.



Col. Bajaj (left) with the Tricolour at the South Pole

69. **When was the Tiranga first flown into the outer space?**

Ans. In 1971, the Indian Tricolor travelled into the outer space for the first time on board Apollo-15.

70. **When was Tiranga first planted at the Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica?**

Ans. On 9th January 1982, the first Indian Antarctica Expedition planted the Indian Flag at the Dakshin Gangotri.



71. Name the scuba diver who displayed the Tiranga under water for the first time at a depth of 18 meters in Andaman & Nicobar Islands?

Ans. Mrs. Archana Sardana, displayed the National-flag Tiranga under water at 18mtrs depth off the Neil Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 14th January, 2011.

72. The Flag of which fabric – Khadi or Silk is unfurled by the President on the Rajpath on 26th January and by the Prime Minister on the Red Fort on 15th August?

Ans. A flag made of Khadi-silk. Since the Republic Day and Independence Day are National festivals, the Tiranga, therefore, wears a festive look on these days.

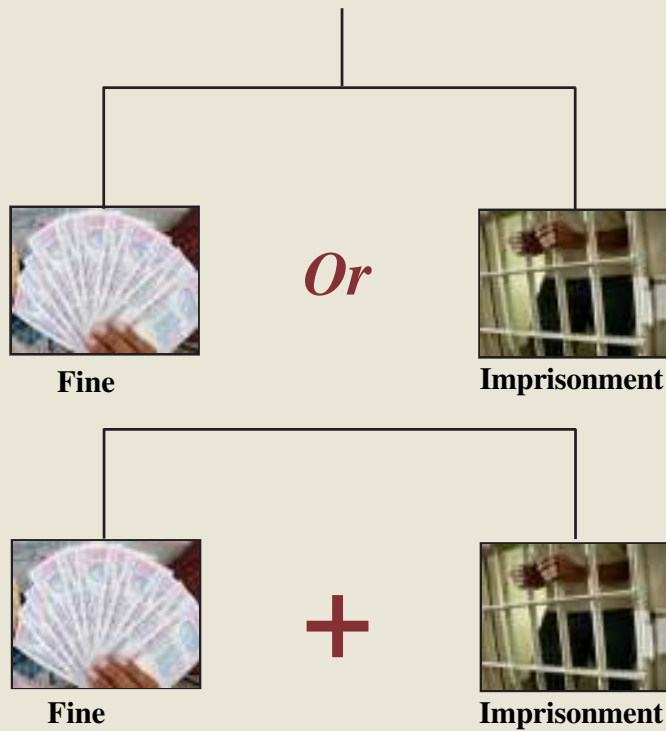
73. How many Tirangas are simultaneously flown on the August building of the Parliament House?

Ans. Three Tirangas are simultaneously flown daily on the building of the Parliament House. The first flag represents the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha; the second denotes the office of the Dy. Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the third one represents the office of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

74. Under which Act is an offence committed against the National-flag, punishable?

Ans. Offences committed against the National-flag of India are punishable under the "Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act-1971."

Punishments Related to Flag Offences



75. Which Act prohibits the use of the National-flag for commercial purposes?

Ans. The Emblems and Names (Presentation of Improper Use Act,-1950)

76. What punishment can be awarded to a person or persons for committing an offence against the National-flag?

Ans. Any person who causes insult to the National-flag Tiranga shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with a fine or with both.

77. What acts by any person, will constitute an insult or disrespect to our National-flag?

Ans. Any one in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to the National-flag shall be deemed to have caused insult and disrespect to the Flag.

78. Earlier, the President of India and the State Governors had their personal flags. Since when did the President of India and the State Governors start flying the National-flag on their respective residence and car?

Ans. Since 1972, when the Privy-Purse was abolished in India.

79. **The President of India once had a personal standard (flag), which had four motifs. Name the motifs.**

Ans. The four motifs as shown on the erstwhile Standard of the President of India were the National Emblem, showing unity. The second panel of the flag depicted an elephant from the Ajanta Caves (5th Century AD) advancing towards the hoist of the flag symbolizing patience and strength. The third panel had a Pair of Scales from the Red Fort, Delhi, (17th Century) denoting equality and justice and the fourth panel had a Lotus Bowl (circa 1st century BC) from Sarnath signifying plentifulness and prosperity.



President of India's flag



State Governor's Flag

Till 15 August, 1972, the President of India and respective State Governors had their special individual flags as shown above.

80. When you visit the Rashtrapati Bhawan or a Raj Bhawan and find that the Tiranga is not flying on the building, what does this signify?



Rashtrapati Bhawan as seen without the National-flag.

Ans. It means that the Rashtrapati or the Rajyapal is not in the Bhawan or that he/she is away on tour.

81. Which Indian State flies its flag by the side of the Tiranga on its official buildings, etc.?

Ans. The State of Jammu and Kashmir flies its State flag beside the National-flag of India within the State.



The flag of the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

82. When was the image of the Tiranga first used on an Indian postal stamp?

Ans. On 21st November, 1947, but it was dated 15th August, 1947



The first Postal Stamp of post Independence India, showing the Tiranga

83. When was the image of the Tiranga first used on a commemorative coin?

Ans. On 15th August, 1947.

84. What do you understand by the term "Flag-march"?

Ans. A march by the armed or para-military forces through the streets of any tension torn towns/cities, etc. with a view to caution people against violence and to urge them to maintain peace, is called a flag march.



One lakh Independence medals bearing the Tiranga in copper, as shown above, were minted in Bombay and distributed to Members of Diplomatic Corps and students of government schools in Delhi on 15th August 1947.



A two anna coin on trial pattern bearing the Tiranga and the map of India was designed as shown above, but was not used for circulation

85. When is the “Flag-day” observed in India?

Ans. On 7th December every year by the armed forces of India by raising fund by Selling mini-paper flags.

86. Why are National-flags flown on Government offices/agencies to be made of hand spun Khadi?

Ans. As per the Flag Code-India, it is mandatory to fly National-flags made of Khadi on all Government buildings/offices, etc. This was adopted as a policy by the Centre Government in 1951 when the Flag Rules and Standards were drawn for the first time.

87. How are the National-flags flown on VVIP’s cars/ planes/trains different from other flags?

Ans. The National-flags flown on VVIP’s cars and on the train and aeroplanes used by the President and the Prime Minister of India are made with double bunting to prevent damage as they flap frequently and vigorously whereas other flags are made of single bunting.

88. Are the table Tirangas meant to be used during summit talks and international conventions made of cotton-khadi or silk-khadi?

Ans. Such flags are made of Khadi-Silk because they are used for formal functions and ceremonies.

89. What is the standard size of a table flag?

Ans. The standard size of a table flag is “6 x 4” (150x100mm).

90. What is the standard size of a car flag?

Ans. The standard size of a car flag is "9x6" (225x150mm).

91. What is the standard size of the flag used on the train and aeroplanes used by the President and Prime Minister of India?

Ans. The standard size of President's train-flag and aeroplane-flags used by the President and Prime Minister of India is "18x12" or (450x300mm).

92. Till January, 2002 the National-flag could not be flown by general public on all days of the year at their homes, factories, offices, etc. Who secured the Right for Indians to fly the Tiranga on all days of the year at their homes, factories, offices, etc?

Ans. Shri. Naveen Jindal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and a young well known industrialist of the country secured the right for Indians to fly the Tiranga everyday at their homes/offices.



Sh. Naveen Jindal,
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
& President, Flag Foundation
of India

93. The Iron Pillar, near Qutub Minar, Delhi was originally a “Dhavja Stambh” (flagpole). Which deity did it belong to?

Ans. The stambh was meant for Lord Vishnu’s dhavja dating back to Gupta period of Indian History.

94. When were former kings and princes barred from flying their state flag on their residences and cars?

Ans. Since 15th August 1972, after the abolishment of the Privy Purse.

95. When the President of India travels by a special train within the country, where is the National-flag flown on the train?

Ans. The National-flag is flown from the driver’s cab, on the side facing the platform of the railway station from which the train is to depart. The flag is flown only when the special train carrying the President is about to leave the station and when it is coming into the station where it is to halt.

96. Since when did the President of India start flying the National-flag on his/her car and the Rashtrapati Bhawan?

Ans. Since 15th August 1972 after the Privy Purse was abolished.

97. When was the Tiranga first hoisted at the Headquarter of the United Nations?

Ans. On 15th August 1947 when India became Independent.

98. Who persuaded the Supreme Court of India to decree the flying /displaying of the National-flag on all days of the year in 2004 as a Fundamental Right and the Parliament for the display of the image of the National-flag on our costumes/dresses etc. in 2005?

Ans. Shri Naveen Jindal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament & a young Industrialist.

99. When did the Hon'ble Supreme Court declare the flying of the National-flag as a Fundamental Right of a citizen?

Ans. On 23rd January, 2004

100. Till 1958, four Tirangas used to simultaneously fly daily on the building of the Sansad Bhawan. Now only three Tirangas are flown on the August building. Which office of the Government of India did the fourth flag belong to?

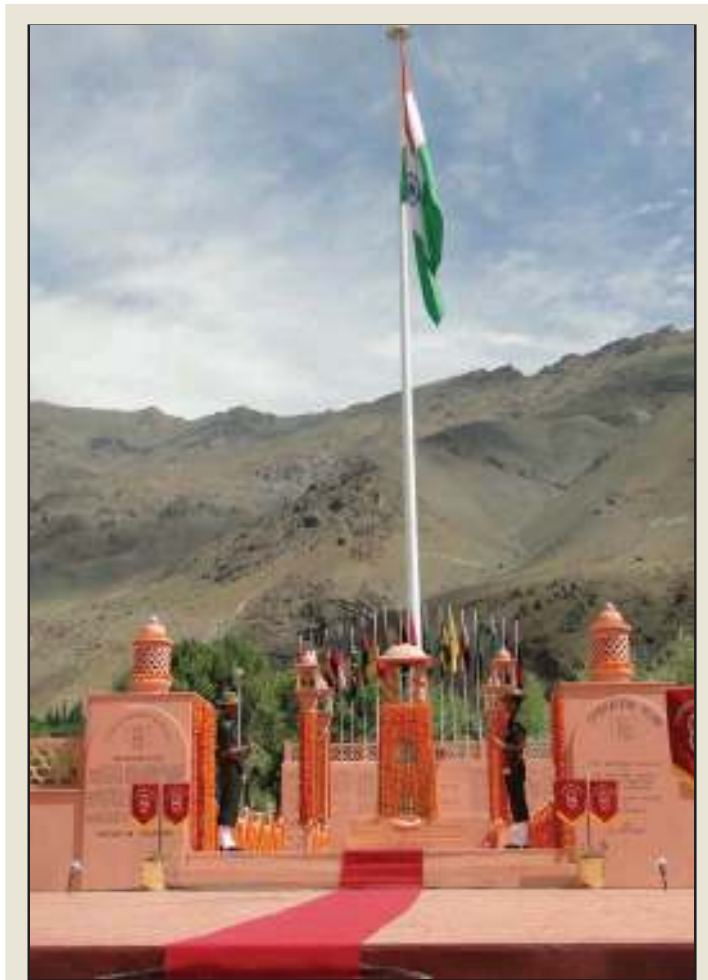
Ans. To the Supreme Court of India. Till 1958 the Supreme Court of India was housed in the Sansad Bhawan. Then it moved to its present location at Tilak Marg, New Delhi.

101. Where in India the Indian Tricolour flies at the highest attitude?

Ans. At the War Memorial, Drass, Kargil at an altitude of 10,600ft. which remains under snow for nearly 6 months, but the flags flies regardless of weather conditions.



Tiranga at the snow clad Kargil War Memorial, Drass.



The Indian Tricolour flying at the highest altitude in India at Drass,
Kargil War Memorial



The first tallest flagmast of India with the height of 207ft, weighing 12.5 tons and a 4.5ft diameter at the bottom is at Kaithal, Haryana.

102. **Where was the first 207 feet high monumental flagpole installed in India?**

Ans. At Hanuman Vatika, Kaithal in Haryana.

103. **Is it true or false that all Indian airports, seaports and light houses, etc. are required to fly the National-flag?**

Ans. True, the Tiranga is to be flown on these buildings.

104. **Why are all merchant ships and men-of war (naval ships) required to fly the national-flag while on high sea?**

Ans. To indicate their nationality for their identification on the high sea.

105. **What is the difference between a Dhavja and Pataka?**

Ans. A Dhavja is rectangular in shape with a motif on it, whereas a Pataka is triangular and without a motif.

106. **Name the flag of Lord Shiva**

Ans. Vishaba Dhavja

107. **Name the flag of Lord Vishnu.**

Ans. Garuda Dhavja



The personal Standard of Lord Shiva — the Vishaba Dhavja

The famous banner of Lord Vishnu, the Garuda Dhavja



108. Name the flag of the Mughals.
Ans. The Alam



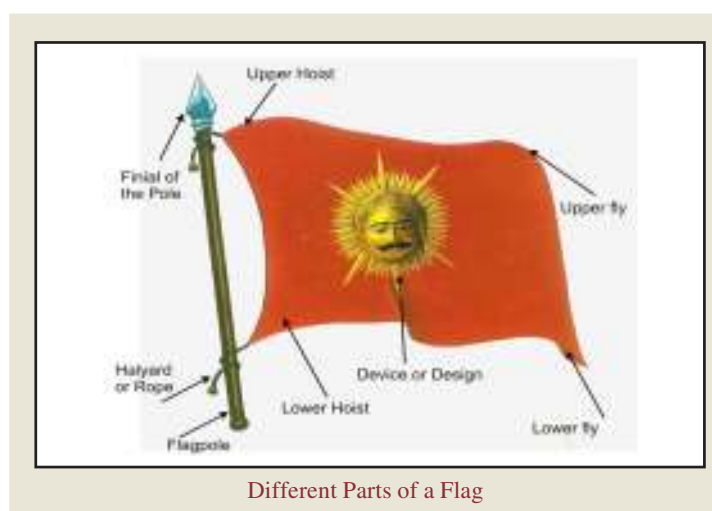
The flag of the Mughals — the Alam

109. What was the colour of the flag of Begum Fatima, the daughter of Prophet Muhammed?

Ans. It was Green, that is the reason why the green colour in flags is so popular amongst Muslim countries.

110. Name any two parts of a modern flag.

Ans. The hoist and the fly. Hoist is the nearest part of a flag to its pole, whereas the fly is the farthest end of the flag.



Different Parts of a Flag

111. What is the difference between hoisting and unfurling a flag?

Ans. When a flag is briskly raised up on to the apex of a flagmast, it is called hoisting a flag. In the case of

unfurling, the flag is opened out by pulling the halyard of the flag kept suspended duly folded at the apex of the flagmast. What the President does on the Republic Day at Rajpath and the Prime Minister on the Independence Day on the Ramparts of the Red Fort, is unfurling the flag. What is ordinarily carried out by armed forces or paramilitary men is hoisting of a flag.

112. Which Indian territory remained longest under rule of a foreign flag?

Ans. The Territories of Goa, Daman, and Diu were under the Portuguese rule for over 450 years from 1498 to 19th December, 1961 when the flag of Portugal-India was lowered for the last time in Goa to give place to the Tiranga.



The Portuguese-India Flag showing a logo on the lower fly denoting Indian territory

113. What do you understand by the term breaking of a flag?

Ans. The origin of the term 'Breaking a Flag' belongs to Navy. When a flag is prepared for some important function it is tied atop the flagpole with a special knot called 'slipknot'. It is broken by a pull to the halyard that keeps the flag tied up on the flagmast for unfurling. Thus, the term breaking a flag.

114. When the National-flag is to fly alongwith the flags of organizations such as army, navy, air force, Indian Police, CRPF, BSF, etc., how much higher will be the National-flag than the other flag or flags.

Ans. If the National-flag is displayed with other flags, it will be displayed in the centre and will be 1.2 meters higher than the remaining flags or higher by the size of the width of the National-flag so that it is distinctly seen above the other flag or flags.

115. What is the protocol regarding the display of the National-flag when the President, Vice-President or the Prime Minister of India visits a foreign country by aeroplane?

Ans. The National-flag is flown on the aircraft carrying the President, Vice-President or the Prime Minister. The National-flag of the country being visited is also flown alongside. En-route, when the aircraft lands in any other country or countries for a stop-over, the National-flag of the countries touched is also flown as a gesture of courtesy and goodwill.

Some International Flags

5

116. Describe the Flag of the United Nations Organization.

Ans. The flag of the UNO depicts in white in the centre a map of the world circled by two olive branches, the ancient sign of peace, on a sky blue field.



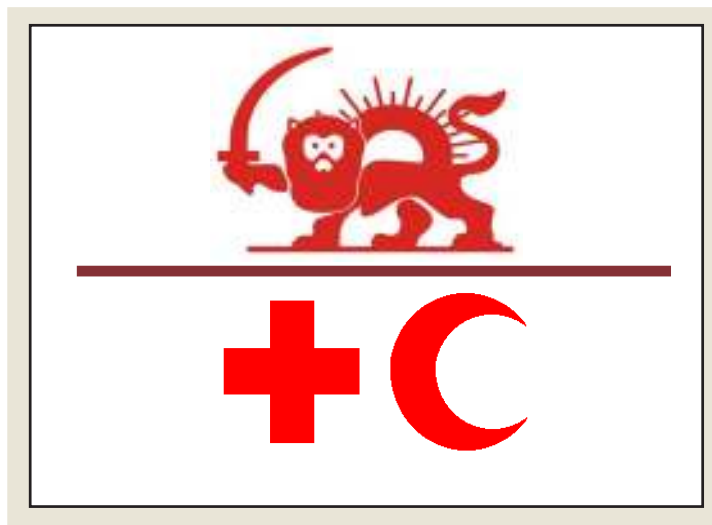
117. How many circles are there on the Olympic Games' Flag?

Ans. The Flag has five equal circles in red, green, blue, yellow, and black representing the five inhabited continents of the world. The circles are linked together in a chain. A chain is an ancient symbol of unity.



118. In what way is the flag of the Red Cross Organization unique?

Ans. The flag of the Red Cross Organization is unique because it has three official variance. In most countries of the world, the Red Cross flag bears its traditional symbol of the Red Cross on a white field, but, in Muslim countries a Red Crescent is used together with the Red Cross symbol.



Iran, however, used an altogether different symbol for the Red Cross Organization till 1980. The Iran flag upheld a red lion wielding a sword and the sun rising behind the lion. The Republic of Iran has now replaced the Red Lion and the Sun with a Red Crescent consistent with most other Muslim nations. However, she reserves the right to revive the old design. The Red Cross Flag was adopted in 1864 in Geneva.

119. The branches of which flower are depicted on the flag of Boy Scouts?

Ans. There are three branches of the Lily flower on a dark leaf-green field on the flag of Boy Scouts, symbolizing the three promises : to be a good citizen, helpful to others, and to be healthy in habits.

120. Which country has the oldest design on its National-flag, still in use?

Ans. The Danish flag is the oldest National-flag in the world, whose design remains unchanged since



1219. King Waldemar, an ancient ruler was said to have seen a white cross in a red sky just before he won an important battle. As a result, the sign become the device of the Danish State flag in 1219 and is still in use unchanged as the National-flag of Denmark. The flag is nicknamed as Dannebrog.

121. In what way is the National-flag of Cyprus unique?

Ans. Cyprus is the only country in the world which shows the map of its landmass on its National-flag. Under the map there are two olive branches. The olive is an ancient sign of peace.



122. In what way is the National-flag of the Himalayan Kingdom Nepal unique?

Ans. The National-flag of Nepal is the only flag in the world which is neither rectangular nor square. It looks similar to two stacked triangles or like a fish-tail.



123. Which is the oldest tricolor in the world ?

Ans. The flag of Netherlands is the worlds' oldest tricolor: red-white-blue that became the Dutch flag in 1630 and continues unchanged ever since. The Dutch tricolor has inspired many international flags. The use of tricolor as the National-flag of a country is very common in the contemporary world. There are



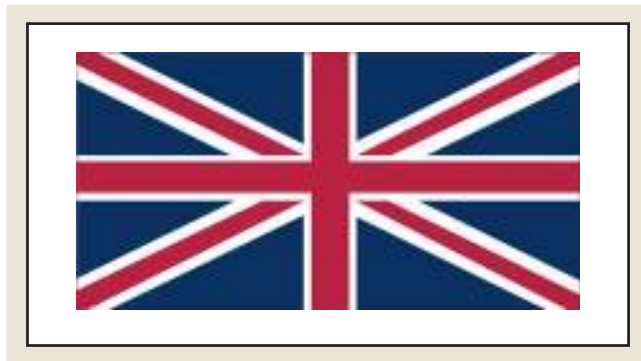
fifty-four such countries in the world that have a tricolour flag as their National-flag.

124. Several Muslim countries have the crescent on their National-flag. The flag of which country inspired them to have the crescent on their flag?

Ans. The flag of Turkey under the Ottoman Empire adopted the crescent as a sign of Islam. Ever since, it has been an inspiration for the flag designs of many other Muslim countries like Algeria, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Tunisia and Comoros.

125. Which is world's most recognizable and commonly used flag?

Ans. The Union Jack of the United Kingdom is the most commonly used flag in the world. It is not only the National-flag of the U.K., but also forms part of the National-flag of many Commonwealth countries which were erstwhile British colonies, such as Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, British Columbia and some more. The National-flag of these countries have a mini-Union Jack in the first quadrant of their Flag.

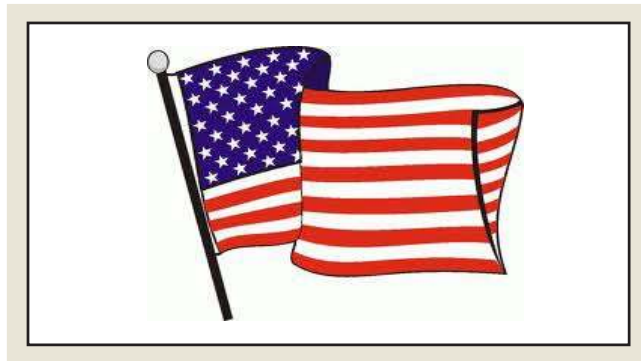


126. The Union Jack of the United Kingdom, is made up of three different Crosses. Name the Crosses.

Ans. The three Crosses : are the Red Cross, white diagonal and the Red diagonal Cross. The Red Cross stands for St. George, the patron saint of England. The White diagonal Cross stands for St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. The Red diagonal Cross stands for St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

127. What is the nickname of the National-flag of the United States of America?

Ans. It is nicknamed as 'Stars and Stripes', also 'Old Glory'. It has 50 stars to represent the 50 states that make up the United States. The 13 red and white stripes stand for USA's original states.



127. Which country has the largest and regularly flying National-flag in the world?

Ans. The Brazilian National-flag flown in the square of the Three Powers in Brasilia, the Brazilian capital is the largest regularly flying flag in the world. The flag weighs about 600 kilograms and has 7000 square meters dimension.



Illustrated Flag Code

6

In this chapter the Flag Code is explained in an illustrative manner to give a visual concept of the rules and regulations related to the flag.



Any Public building where there is a practice of flying the National-flag should continue doing so on all days, including, Sundays and holidays. It shall be flown from sunrise to sunset irrespective of weather conditions.

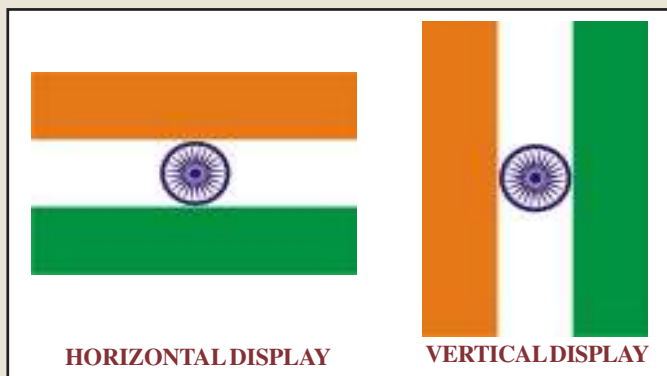




The National-flag shall always be ceremoniously hoisted briskly and lowered slowly. The ceremony should be simultaneously carried out preferably with appropriate bugle calls.



When displayed with other international flags our National-flag is always placed on the extreme left of other flags, which are placed in English alphabetical order as shown in the picture



When the National-flag is displayed horizontally on a wall, the saffron band shall be uppermost and when displayed vertically, the band shall be to its own right i.e. the saffron should be on the left of the person facing it.



The National-flag may be suspended in the middle of a street as shown.



Our National-flag should always be placed to the left when displayed with any other international flag





When the flag is carried in a procession or a parade it shall be either on the marching right, i.e. the flag's own right, or if there is a line of other flags, in front of the centre of the line.



AN INCORRECT DISPLAY

The saffron of the Flag must not be intentionally displayed at the bottom. There is no greater insult and disrespect than to fly it upside down.

When the National-flag is displayed on a speaker's platform, it shall be flown on movable staff to the speaker's right as he/she faces the audience or against the wall or backdrop above and behind the speaker's platform.

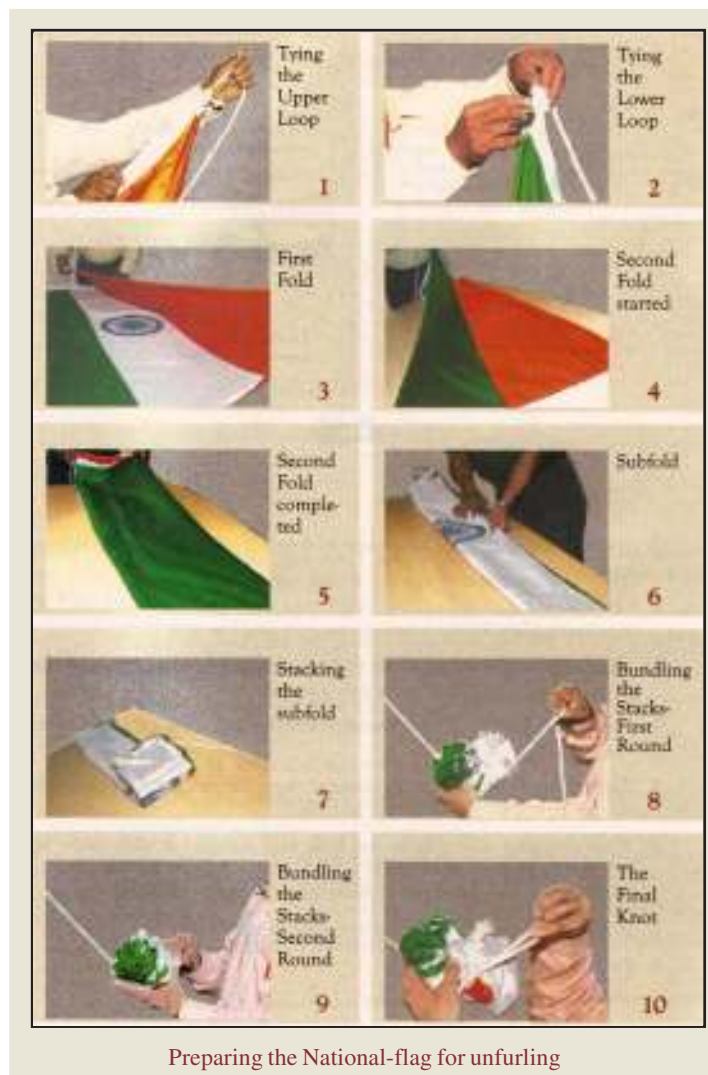


Since 2005, Tiranga can be displayed and sported by citizens as a wrist band or in the form of a lapel pin.



The National-flag should be folded as shown in the pictures above and stored properly. It should not be kept in a way that may soil, damage or dislevel it.

- Step -1 : Place the flag horizontally.
- Step -2 : Fold the saffron and green bands under the middle of the white band.
- Step -3 : Fold the white band in such a way that only the Ashoka Chakra is seen with parts of saffron and green bands.
- Step -4 : Carry the folded flag on palms or arms to store it.





Patriotic Display of the Flag

7

As per the amended Flag Code of India, the National-flag can now be displayed at homes, offices, factories and workplaces, on all days of the year.



The National-flag displayed at the reception counter of a corporate office





The table Tiranga displayed on an office table



In a game of chess the two opponents display the National-flag of their respective countries on the game table, as seen in the picture



The British-India- Flag — Red
Ensign (1858 to 1947)



Flag of the Governor
General of India

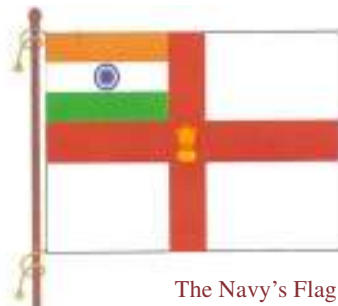


Flag of the Viceroy
of India

Some historic flags



The Army's Flag



The Navy's Flag



The Air Force's Flag

The Tiranga forms a part of the Ensigns of the three armed forces of India



India's largest Tiranga measures 72 x 48 ft and weighs around 32 kg. The National-flag flies day and night on 207ft high flagpoles installed at different places in the country by Flag Foundation of India.



INS Mysore flying the Tiranga. All the naval ships are to fly the National-flag. The aircrafts of the Indian Air Force paint the Tiranga on their tail end.



An artistic display of the colours of the Tiranga

*An Image of the Landscape of India in
the colours of Tiranga*





Flag Terms Defined

8

Applique: A mode of flag manufacture in which one or more pieces of cloth are stitched on the field of the flag to form the design.

Banner: Originally a rectangular flag, hanging from a crossbar or suspended between two poles; made with great care and displaying the emblem of a king or an army, etc. Because the meaning of the word has changed over the years, it is preferable to use a more specific term: royal banner, trumpet-banner, etc. Currently, banners refer even to flags of commercial houses, political organizations and institutions.

Bannerette: A small flag such as a pipe-banner or trumpet-banner.

Battle Honour: A mark added to a colour of a unit to show its distinguished military service. It may take the form of an inscription on the flag itself or on the staff or a metal clip added to a streamer itself.



Bend on a Flag: Act of fastening a flag to halyard in order to hoist it.

Break a flag: To unfurl a flag kept rolled up atop a flagmast by pulling down its halyard. In fact, on August 15, the Prime Minister of India breaks the flag at the Red Fort to unfurl it.

Bunting: Strong, loosely woven material used for making flags, originally of wool, but now a days of other fibres such as polyester; by extension, bunting material used as decoration or, figuratively, flags collectively.

Burgee: A small distinguishing flag usually triangular or swallow-tailed used on yachts and cars of senior armed forces personnel and police officers as a distinguishing mark.

Canton: Often the area in the upper hoist corner of a flag or a rectangular field filling that area.

Colours: The term colours originally applied to British infantry flags. The plural 'colours' is often used, even for a single flag, because the name derives from the colours composing the field of the flag, as well as the British and American practice of issuing two flags simultaneously to the same unit. During medieval times in Europe, troops of various knights and warriors used to rally under flags of different hues for purpose of

distinction. Over the years, such flags gained the collective name 'colours'. The colours of distinguished troops, knights, warriors, etc. had decorative devices on them. By the end of the nineteenth century the practice of carrying colours and standards to the battlefield was discontinued.

Courtesy Flag: The flag of a country being visited by a ship from a different nation, as flown by that vessel to show courtesy to the country visited. It is a modern custom followed by all navies of the world even these days.

Dhvaja: A dhvaja is an ancient Indian flag rectangular in shape bearing a motif or an emblem on it such as the Vishnu-dhvaja.

Dipping a flag: Means lowering a flag briefly and then instantly raising it again at sea while sailing past a ship, particularly a warship. It is an old custom to honour, greet and salute an important person or a ship at sea.

Ensign: A generic term for flag, especially associated with naval flags of nationality (civil ensign, naval reserve ensign, etc.) and by extension in British usage with distinguishing flags of Government services on land. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries ensign was the normal term for colour and for colour-bearer.

Finial: The ornamental top of a flagstaff.

Flag Bearer: One who carries the Flag, during Olympics, Asiads, Commonwealth Games meets. The Flag bearer leads his contingent with his country's National-flag.

Flag Belt: A leather device worn around the waist and neck which holds the bottom end of a staff to assist a marching standard-bearer.

Flag Cancel: A printed invalidation for postage stamps, resembling a flag.

Flag Day: A day for the affirmation of patriotic values expressed in and through display of the National-flag. In India, 7th December is observed as the Flag-day when funds are raised by donations through sale of mini paper flags.

Flag House: The distinguishing flag of a commercial firm, flown especially at sea; sometimes used in reference to the personal flag of the owner of a yacht or home.

Flag Man: One who signals with or carries a flag.

Flag March: The march of armed forces through the streets of a tension torn town or city to show their presence.

Flag Officer: A naval officer entitled to display a rank flag such as Rear Admiral, Vice-Admiral or Admiral.

Flag Truce: To display a white flag as a signal to cease fighting.

Flagmast: The staff or pole on which a flag is hoisted or displayed. The terms flagpole and flagstaff also mean the same.

Flag-off: To inaugurate an event, but, more commonly to start a race.

Flagship: The ship bearing the flag of the senior most naval officer of a fleet.

Fly: The end of the flag which is farthest from the flag staff and flies in the air. It is further categorised as upper-fly and lower-fly.

Gaff: A spar from which a flag is hoisted, jutting from the mizzenmast of a ship or from a staff on land.

Guidon: A small military flag, forked and rounded at its free end, serving as a guide to troops, a distinguishing flag. They are chiefly used by cavalry, but ranked below the standard. The word guidon is of Italian origin.

Hoist: That part of a flag nearest the staff; also a group of signal flags to be flown together, also a synonym for width. Hoist is further categorised as upper hoist and lower hoist.

Horsetail: A decoration for military flags, especially in China where it is usually red, made of real or simulated horsetail.

Jack: A small flag flown under certain circumstances at the prow of a vessel, usually of a warship.

Lance Flag: A small flag, usually triangular or swallow-tailed, formerly displayed at the end of a lance by soldiers, particularly of the cavalry.

National-flag: A flag representing an independent state, especially a nation-state, but by extension the flag of formerly independent states and of non-independent national groups.

Parley Flag: A plain white flag displayed during war to request negotiations. Flag-truce and parley-flag mean the same.

Pataka : A pataka is an ancient small Indian flag, triangular in shape having no emblem on it.

Pennant/ Pendant: A long tapering flag especially flown at the masthead of a naval vessel in commission. At the time of de-commissioning a ship it is removed with naval customs and honours. From its etymology ('hanging'), it appears that pennants originally always hung from a cross-bar, and may continue to do so; others are attached in the usual fashion to a vertical staff or are mounted against a flag surface such as a wall. Pennants are extensively used at sea, where they apparently originated, for signalling, for decoration, and as rank flags. Today, they are also used on land, especially as souvenir flags, award flags, and flags

of business, fraternal, sports, and other associations.

Pine-staff: A pole with a decorative head to which a ceremonial flag is attached for carrying.

Pip-banner: A bannerette worn on bagpipes to decorate them.

Position of Honour: The place given to the highest ranking flag in a group of flags.

Prayer Flag: A small flag, often used in groups and decorated with inscriptions, intended to express a prayer as it flies; characteristic of Buddhists in the Himalayan region.

Sleeve: A tube of material along the hoist of a flag through which the staff is inserted, used especially for a parade flag or colour.

Standard: A distinctive personal flag of a king, knight or any other distinguished person. In olden days, it used to be very large, meant mostly to be stationary and was seldom carried to the battlefield. In course of time, the term became applicable to cavalry flags.

Striking the flag: Lowering one's flag as a sign of surrender in a war, is known as striking the flag.

Swallow tailed: Having a large triangular section cut from the fly end, a characteristic of pennants and war ensigns of Northern Europe. War ensigns

sometimes have a third tail between the other two; such a flag may be referred to as swallow-tailed with a tongue.

Table Flag: A small flag, mounted on a cross or single straight bar whose staff and stand make it suitable for display on a desk or podium. Such flags are usually used during international and bi-national talks, etc. to identify nationality. These flags are made of double bunting.

Tricolour: A flag whose field is divided horizontally, vertically or diagonally into three different plain colours. About forty- nine countries in the contemporary world use tricolour flags as their National-flag, including India.

Trumpet-banner: A bannerette used to decorate a ceremonial trumpet.

Vexillary: The one who carries a flag.

Vexillologist: A flag historian.

Vexillology: The study of the history, types and uses of flags.

Vexillophilist: One who collects flags.

War Ensign: The National-flag flown on armed vessels; also called naval ensign.

War Flag: The National-flag flown over camps and other military establishments on land, often in



conjunction with the state flag; not to be confused with a colour.

Yardam: A spar slung horizontally across a flagpole.

Flag Meeting : A meeting between two local commanders at the international border or line-of-control to diffuse existing tension on the border.

Prayer Flags : Flags on which prayers are written/printed. they are hung on trees or poles to spread prayers across the country side by winds. Buddhist prayer flags are common.





Thoughts on the National-flag

9

A flag is a necessity for all nations. Millions have died for it. It is no doubt a kind of idolatry which it would be a sin to destroy. For, a flag represents an ideal. The unfurling of the Union Jack in the English breast evokes sentiments whose strength it is difficult to measure. The Stars and Stripes means a world to the Americans. The Star and the Crescent will call forth the best bravery in Islam. It will be necessary for us Indians - Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Parsis and all others to whom India is their home to recognise a common flag to live and to die for."

—*M K Gandhi*

Iremember, and many in this House will remember, how we looked up to this flag not only with pride and enthusiasm but with tingling in our veins and also how when we were sometimes down and out, the sight of this flag gave us courage to go on. Then, many who are not present here today, many of our





comrades who have passed, held on to this flag, some amongst them even unto death, and handed it over as they sank, to others to hold it aloft.”

—*Jawaharlal Nehru*

Whether or not we live but this flag must remain, the country must exist. I am sure our flag will certainly out live us for many ages to come.”

—*Laj Bahadur Shastri*

The flag under which we are standing is not just a piece of cloth. This is a symbol of the sacrifices made in our struggle for freedom, later on the sacrifices by our brave soldiers on our borders in various wars and now of those who with their hard labour are engaged in the struggle for India’s progress and also of our promising youth. Our flag and our National Anthem are no ordinary things. They unite the country and bind it together and that is why I want to say that the glory of the flag must be protected even at the cost of life.”

—*Indira Gandhi*

The tricolour is a symbol of our freedom, of our self respect, and of sacrifices and martyrdoms. People belonging to the older generations would certainly remember the time when young boys and girls would form themselves into small groups,



take the flag in their hands, and go around villages and city streets singing, 'Vijayi vishwa tiranga pyara, jhanda uncha rahe hamara'."

—Atal Behari Vajpayee

I must have been twenty-seven or twenty-eight when a Japanese officer came to visit us in the Azad Hind Fauz in Burma. He told us about a Japanese soldier who was wounded in battle and did not want the flag to fall into enemy hands, so he cut up his stomach and stuffed it with the Japanese flag and then died. Such was the reverence the Japanese had for their flag and this anecdote really made a big impression on all of us."

—Capt. Lakshmi, an officer of INA

As a sportsman, to see the flag being hoisted or the National Anthem being played in the hour of your triumph is a feeling beyond compare. The flag hoisting at that moment is not something that has happened by itself or as a matter of present routine but solely because of your hard work."

—Maj. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore,
Olympic Silver Medalist

The National-flag is an emblem of our fight for freedom and an assertion of our sovereignty. It is our common property not a status symbol



for V.I.P.s. We have every right to fly it where and when we like.”

—*Khushwant Singh, Writer*

The Indian tricolour is a beautiful flag. I have had many close associations with it in my 75-year career by performing on India’s Independence Day and Republic Day in various parts of the world. I don’t think it is appropriate that the National-flag is fashioned into a bikini or a t-shirt as is common in some countries.”

— *Pandit Ravi Shankar, Sitar Maestro*

The flag is not the property of the Government or the Parliament. It belongs to the nation and the nation is made up of crores and crores of people, most of whom are patriotic and want to express their patriotism. If they want to put up the flag at their homes or wear it on their clothes to express pride in their nation, then it should be welcomed so long as they are not cheapening or denigrating it.”

— *Dev Anand, Actor/Director*

Iam not sure if the idea of painting your face in the flag colours is a way to honour your country. Suppose you have your face



“painted like that and some one comes and slaps you. What does it mean? You have brought dishonour to the whole country?”

—*Kirpal Singh, Artist*

Our National-flag is the most powerful brand that we as a nation have—which clearly stands head and shoulders above all other brands.”

—*Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro Group*

For years, everyday, I made so many blouses, skirts, salwar-sets, shirts. They were all used and soon forgotten by the wearer and by me. But every flag I am making now I will remember all my life, since these are going to be saluted by big people and our soldiers, and looked at with respect by millions of people.”

—*Annapurna,
A Flag-maker*

I don't think what my son did was anything special. He took the pledge to honour the flag and did his duty to fight for the country to the best of his abilities. There were others who also fought but came back alive. But in no way did they have less respect for the flag. I think everyone has to honour the flag, not only the army people who take the pledge. We must all do our



duty whole-heartedly regardless of our profession.”

— Mrs. Hema Aziz,
*Mother of Kargil Hero, Late Capt.
Haneefuddin, 11th Rajputana Rifles, VRC*

What is patriotism? The flag waving that one sees these days is only at cricket matches. I don't think cheering for your country at a cricket match is patriotism. It is looking at your country objectively and trying to improve conditions.”

—Aparna Sen, *Film maker*

When two separated lovers look at the moon, it helps them to emotionally unite the two, regardless of the distance between them. Likewise, our spirit of patriotism and love for the motherland lie hidden in our hearts but, when we sight the National-flag, our underlying love for it instantly surfaces. Thus, the Tiranga inspires and arouses in us our love for the country.”

—Javed Akhtar, *Lyricist*





National Symbols of
INDIA



Tiranga

The Flag of India

The National-flag of India is horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportions.

In the centre of the white band, there is a wheel in navy blue. The design of the wheel is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.

The diameter of the wheel is approximate to the width of the white band and has 24 equally spaced spokes. The ratio of the width to the length of the flag is ordinarily 2 : 3 (two breadths by three breadths)



The colour saffron is commonly used in India since ancient times. It stands for courage, and the spirit of renunciation. The white colour in the flag represents the Sun's rays. The white also denotes the path of light and virtue. It is as well the symbol of purity.

The green of the flag is symbolic of growth and our relation with soil and the plant life. The flag is for all Indians, every religion and every language in the country.

The blue of the Ashok Chakra on our flag signifies the boundless sky above and the fathomless sea below. The blue also signifies inner energy.



Jana-Gana-Mana

The National Anthem

Guru Rabindranath Tagore's song 'Jana-Gana-Mana' was adopted as the National-anthem of India on January 24, 1950 by the Constituent Assembly. The original song has five stanzas. However, only the first stanza has been adopted as the National-anthem.

The music composition and the tune set by an Englishman Mr. Herbert Murrill of the BBC was finally selected by the Government of India for our National-anthem 'Jana-Gana-Mana'. For his contribution and the service, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru sent a thanksgiving letter with a \$500 cheque to the music composer Mr. Herbert Murrill.

जन गण मन अधिनायक जय हे
भारत भाग्य विधाता
पंजाब सिंधु गुजरात माराठा
द्रविड उत्कल बंग
विंध्य हिमाचल यमुना गंगा
उच्छल जलधि तरंग
तव शुभ नामे जागे
तव शुभ आशिष मागे
गाहे तव जय गाथा
जन गण मंगल दायक जय हे
भारत भाग्य विधाता
जय हे जय हे जय हे
जय जय जय जय हे

The normal duration of our National-anthem when it is sung is 52 seconds. On certain State functions an abridged version of the National-anthem is played on band. The exact duration of the abridged version is 18 seconds only.

According to an old German tape, the first ever recording of the song was done in 1941 and was played as the National-anthem by Subhash Chandra Bose's army in Germany. It was Netaji's version of the 'Jana-Gana-Mana', that was finally adopted as the country's National-anthem. It was first played by the UN orchestra as the national-anthem of India on 15th of August, 1947 even before it was officially adopted as India's National-anthem, at the Headquarter's of the United Nations when India joined the UNO as a free Nation.



Vande-Mataram

The National Song

“Jana-Gana-Mana” is the National Anthem of India accordingly to the Constitution of India, but the song ‘Vande Mataram’ since had played a more historic role in the freedom struggle of India by evoking love and respect for “Mother-India” in the hearts of millions of the people of the country, the Constitution of India, therefore, bestowed an equal status to ‘Vande Mataram’ alongwith the National-anthem.

Since the first two words “Vande Mataram” of the song filled the hearts of millions of Indians with lot of vim, vigour and verve during

वन्दे मातरम् ।
सुजलां सुफलां मलयजशीतलाम्
शस्यश्यामलाम् मातरम् ।
शुभ्रन्योत्सना पुलकितयामिनीम्
पुल्लकुसुमित द्रुमदलशोभिनीम्
सुहासिनीं सुमधुर भाषिनीम्
सुखदां वरदां मातरम् ॥
कोटि कोटि कन्ठ कलकलनिनाद कराले
कोटि कोटि भुजैधृतखरकरवाले
के बोले मा तुमि अबले
बहुबलधारिणीं नमामि तारिणीम्
रिपुदलवारिणीं मातरम् ॥
तुमि विद्या तुमि धर्म, तुमि हृदि तुमि मर्म
त्वं हि प्राणाः शरीरे
बाहुते तुमि मा शक्ति,
हृदये तुमि मा भक्ति,
तोमारे प्रतिमा गडि मंदिरे मंदिरे... वन्दे मातरम् ॥
त्वं हि दुर्गा दशप्रहरणधारिणी
कमला कमलदल विहारिणी
वाणी विद्यादायिनी, नमामि त्वाम्
नमामि कमलां अमलां अतुलाम्
सुजलां सुफलां मातरम् ... वन्दे मातरम् ॥

*our freedom struggle
the two words are like
our National-slogan*

*During the Bengal Par-
tition agitation in 1906,
the magic slogan
“Vande Mataram” be-
came the rallying call in
the whole country and a national Mantra for freedom..*



*The Song was conviced and composed in 1876, but was
first published in Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay’s novel
Anand Math (An Aboard of Bliss) in 1882.*



Ashoka Pillar

The National-Emblem

The State-emblem of India is a replica of the lion capital of the Ashoka Pillar, as preserved in the Sarnath Museum, Uttar Pradesh. The original Sarnath Capital from where the inspiration came, has four lions, standing back to back, facing the four directions.

The State-emblem as adopted on 26th January 1950 by the Government of India, however, has only three visible lions, the fourth being hidden from view. In the centre of the abacus there is the Dharma

Chakra, a bull on the right denoting originally the birth sign "Vrishabh" (Taurus) of Lord Buddha, and Kantaka the favorite horse of Buddha on the left. The Dharma Chakra crowning the original capital and the inverted lotus both were omitted at the time of adoption of the State-emblem. In their place, the Vedic legend "Satya-Meva-Jayate" in Devnagri script was added at the base of the abacus. The



Vedic words are from the Mundaka Upanishad and without the mention of these words the State-emblem is incomplete. The original capital of the Ashoka Pillar, however, does not bear the ancient maxim.

The National-emblem is to be used for official use by the Government of India and its constituent States & Territories. It is also used on vehicles of the Rashtrapati Bhawan and Raj Bhawans.



Lotus

The National Flower

Lotus is the National-flower of India. It is a sacred flower and occupies a unique position in the art and mythology of ancient India and has been an auspicious symbol of Indian culture since time immemorial. The Lotus symbol-

*i z e s
divinity, fertility,
wealth, knowledge
and not to forget en-
lightenment. Lending
to its uniqueness, the
flower grows in
murky waters and
rises on a long stalk
above the surface to
gloriously bloom*



over water. It is also a symbol of triumph, since the lotus is rooted in the mud and can survive to regerminate for thousands of years. It represents long life, honor, and good fortune. It was this depth of thought that made the founding fathers of modern India enshrine the lotus in our Constitution as the National-flower. The botonical name of the lotus is nelumbo uncifer.

Peacock

The National Bird

The Peacock is the National-bird of India. It was declared as the National-bird on January 31, 1963. The decision to designate one of our birds as our National-bird followed the resolution of the Conference of the International



Council for Bird Preservation, held in Tokyo in May 1960, which had recommended that every nation should declare what special bird enjoyed the honour of being called her National-bird.

The matter was later taken up by the Indian Board for Wild Life, and the State Governments were also asked to give

their views. The final choice of the Peacock as our National-bird was made after due consideration of the views given by the State Governments.

The peacock which is our National-bird, certainly deserves the honour. Perhaps no other bird has so many qualities — grace, pride and friendliness. Among over 2000 birds in India — the most magnificent, the most fascinating and the most brilliantly coloured one is the peacock. This beautiful bird belongs to the family of pheasants. The male is the largest and most splendid of pheasants. The female is the peahen. Collectively, both are called peafowl. The Bird enjoys great significance in our ancient literature. It was the mount of Lord Kartikeya, the son of Lord Shiva. The peacock feather was the favourite mascot of Lord Krishna who always sported it on his forehead.

The peacock is known by many names. The common Sanskrit name for it is Mayura, which means a killer. Its other names are Neelakantha, Bhujangabhuk, Sikhi, Kekin, Meghananda, Sikhandin and Chandrakin. In Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati and Marathi, the peacock is called Mor, a derivative from Mayura; in Kannada, Navilu; in Telegu, Nemali; in Tamil and Malayalam, Mayil; in Sinhali, Monara; and in Persian, Taus. In French it is called Paon; it is Pavo in Latin and Greek. Its zoological name is Pavo Cristatus, which in Greek means peacock with a crest.



Saka Era

The National Calendar

The Saka-era was adopted as the National-calendar of India with effect from March 22, 1957. corresponding to Chaitra 1, of Saka 1879, to be used concurrently with the Gregorian Calendar. The revised Saka calendar has its New Year beginning at the Spring Equinox, with 5 months in succession having 31 days and the following seven months with 30 days. The dates of the National-calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian calendar-Chaitra 1 falling on March 22 in ordinary years and on March 21 in leap years.



The National-calendar alongwith the Gregorian calendar is officially used for :

- (i) The Gazette of India.*
- (ii) News Broadcast by All India Radio and Doordarshan*
- (iii) Calendars issued by the Government of India; and*
- (iv) On Government communications addressd to members of public.*

As the Saka-era is used in South India, likewise the Vikrami-era is used in North India. It was introduced by the legendary King Vikramadyta in 57 B.C. The difference between the Saka era and the Vikram era is 135 years. The Vikram era is 57 years in advance of the Gregorian-ear and the Saka calendar is 78 years behind the Gregorian calendar.



Tiger

The National Animal

The tiger the lord of the Indian jungles, is the National animal of India. Its zoological name is Panthera Tigris.

Tiger is a rich-coloured well-stripped animal with a short coat. The combination of grace, strength, agility and enormous power has earned the tiger high esteem the world over. Because of the decline in its number, the 'Project Tiger' was launched in April



1973, under which there are 18 natural protected areas for tigers. Since then, the tiger population has shown an increase. Till the 1940s, there were eight known sub-species of the animal. Out of the eight species known, the Caspian, the Bali and the Javan tigers are now extinct. The five

surviving sub-species, namely the South Chinese, the Indo-Chinese, the Sumatran, the Siberian and the Royal Bengal tigers are truly making their last stand.

The Indan race, the Royal Bengal Tiger, is found throughout the country except in the north-western region.

The tiger occupies a variety of habitats from dry open jungles, humid ever-green forests to mangroves swamps. The international agencies estimate a world-wide population of wild tigers between 5,000 and 7,500 out of which nearly half are believed to be in India.

Till 1972, the Lion was the National-animal of India. Replacing the Lion, India adopted the Tiger as its National-animal in 1972.



Ganga

The National River

The Ganga, the most sacred river of the country was declared as the National-river of India in 2008. It is a trans-boundary river between India and Bangladesh. The Ganga is the longest river of India that flows over 2525 kms through mountains, valleys and plains touching many former provincial and imperial capitals and well known cities and towns such as Haridwar, Kanpur, Allahabad, Kashi , Kannauj, Patna, Bhagalpur and Kolkata and is the



second greatest river in the world by water discharge. The Ganga basin is the most heavily populated river basin in the world. The river originates in the snow fields of the Gangotri Glacier in the upper Himalayas as river Bhagirathi. The river on her journey to the Bay of Bengal is joined enroute by many rivers, the Alaknanda, Yamuna,

Betwa, Sone, Gomati, Kosi and Ghaghra. Yamuna Ghaghra and Kosi are the largest tributaries of the Ganga. There are two dams on the river. The first one is at Haridwar and the second is at Farukhabad.

One of the longest road bridges in India, the Mahatama Gandhi Setu is built over the river at Patna. As the Ganga is about to reach her mouth, the Bay of Bangal she fans out to form the world's largest delta, the Sunderbans (59,000sq km) which stretches 322 km along the Bay of Bengal.

After entering Bangladesh the Ganga is named as the Padma. Further downstream, the Padma joins the Meghna river and the Ganga takes on the name the Meghna. On reaching the Meghna Estuary she empties into the "Bay of Bengal"

The Ganga is the soul of Indian culture and the Hindu way of life. Many religious and ceremonial occasions are held on its holy banks at Varanasi, Haridwar and Allahabad. The Mahakumbh at Triveni, Allahabad is the mega event when millions take the holy dip to redeem their sins.

Dolphin

The National Aquatic Animal

The docile, friendly and graceful Ganges River Dolphin has been declared India's National Aquatic Animal on 5th October, 2009. The Ganges River Dolphin is an endemic



Species of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna river systems, extending from the foot of the Himalayas to the tidal zone in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.

The presence of dolphins in a river is symbolic of a healthy ecosystem. The fresh-water dolphin, found in the rivers originating from the Himalayas, is only one of its kind

besides those in the Amazon river in South America. According to an estimate there are 2300 dolphins in Indian waters.

The first dolphin distribution map was drawn by John Anderson in 1879. Interestingly, dolphins were once found in the Yamuna, too. According to the Wild Life Fund, the Ganga River Dolphin is in grave danger of extinction with its population, declining, rapidly at a rate of ten percent annually. It is hoped the National Aquatic Animal status would surely serve help conserve the endangered species.



Jai Hind

The National Salutation

It was Subhash Chandra Bose, who coined the slogan “Jai Hind”, meaning victory to India, as the battle-cry for his soldiers of the Azad Hind Fouz when he took over as its



C-in-C in 1943 at Syonam in Singapore. In the same year, Netaji used this expression while concluding the broadcast he gave from Tokyo. He assured the people of India that Japan would help him to drive away the British out of India. At the end of his broadcast he wished all Indians “Jai Hind” (Victory to India) in their fight against the British Rule.

The slogan gained instant popularity in 1946 when three INA officers were released in Delhi from imprisonment by the British Government.

'Jai Hind' is now India's unofficial National-salutation. On every 15th of August, after concluding his/her speech after addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister urges all present to shout 'Jai Hind' thrice.

Officers and Jawans of most units of Indian Army as salutation greet their superiors saying 'Jai Hind'.



Mango

The National Fruit

*Mango is the unofficial National-fruit of India. It is one of the most widely grown fruits in tropical countries. In India, mango is cultivated almost in all parts, with the exception of hilly areas. In India, we have hundreds of varieties of mangoes. They are of different sizes, shapes and colours. Mango is a rich source of vitamins A, C and D. Mango is native to India and has been cultivated here since time immemorial. Its leaves have the power to draw divine vibrations from atmosphere, hence they are used during rituals. Even in our mythology and history there are stories about mangoes. The famous Indian poet Kalidasa sang its praise. Alexander, the great, along with Hieun Tsang savored the taste of mangoes. The great Mughal king, Akbar is said to have planted over 100,000 mango trees in Darbhanga (modern Bihar). The mango is eaten ripe and is also used raw for pickles. Its botanical name is *Mangifera India*.*







