

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Important International Organizations

Major International Organizations of the World are as follows:

(A) United Nations

United Nations is world's largest organization which was **formed on October 24, 1945**. Since then **October 24 is celebrated as the United Nations Day**. The main objective of the United Nations is to make the world a better place to live in by maintaining peace and security all over the world. There are **193 members** at present in the UN and **South Sudan** is the last entrant. The organisation headquartered at New York has got **five countries** as the **permanent members** in its security council. **They are China, UK, USA, Russia and France**; Besides this they have 10 non-permanent members.

1. **Structure of the Organization:** The following principle bodies of United Nations Organization.

- (i) **General Assembly:** It is **headquartered at New York**. Its members are all member states of the United Nations Organization (UNO).
- (ii) **Security Council:** **Headquartered at New York**, it has **five permanent members** (mentioned earlier) who enjoy veto power and 10 non-permanent elected members. The non-permanent elected members are elected by the General Assembly and retire on rotation, every two years. The main function is to look after the international peace and security.
- (iii) **The Economic and Social Council:** **Headquartered at New York**, it consists of **representatives of 54 member countries** elected by two-third majority in the General Assembly. It functions in international economic, social and culture-related matters.
- (iv) **Trusteeship Council:** **Headquartered at New York**, it looks after the interests of inhabitants of territories which are not yet fully self-governing and are governed by any administrating country. The Trusteeship Council suspended its operations on 1 November 1994, a month after the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations trust territory.
- (v) **United Nations Human Rights Council**, the Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva. The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- (vi) **International Court of Justice:** **Headquarted at the Peace Palace The Hague, in Holland**, it consists of 15 judges elected by General Assembly and Security Council for a term of nine years. Its function is to give legal advice on legal matters to the bodies and special agencies of the UNO and considers the legal disputes which are brought before it. Ronny Abraham is the current President of International Court of Justice.



Note:

Four persons from India have been elected as Judges of International Court of Justice till date. They are:

1. Sir Benegal Rau (1952-53)
 2. Dr. Negendra Singh (1985-88)
 3. R. S. Pathak (1989-91)
 4. Dalveer Bhandari (2012- till date)
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7.2

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

(vii) **Secretariat:** It is headed by the Secretary - General who is the Chief Administrative Officer of the UNO and supervises the activities of UNO. **The Secretary - General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.** The term is of five years and can be re-elected after the expiry of the term.

2. **Secretary - General of UNO:**

- (i) **First Secretary - General was Trygve Lie, from Norway.**
- (ii) **The current Secretary-General of UN is Ant3nio Guterres, appointed by the General Assembly on 13 October 2016.**

3. **Official languages of the UNO:** They are six in number, viz.:

- (i) **English** (ii) **Chinese** (iii) **French**
- (iv) **Spanish** (v) **Russian** (vi) **Arabic**

4. **Important agencies related to United Nations Organization:**

Name of the organization	Headquartered at
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Geneva
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Vienna
United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Paris
World Metrological Organization (WMO)	Geneva
World Health Organization (WHO)	Geneva
Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)	Rome
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) [Now known as World Trade Organization (WTO)]	Geneva
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	New York
International Development Association (IDA)	Washington DC
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Nairobi
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Washington DC
United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)	New York
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Geneva

(B) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Primarily concerned with the individual as well as collective security of the member nations, many countries signed the Treaty which gave birth to NATO on 4, April 1949. **The organization is headquartered at Brussels in Belgium and it has currently 29 members.** In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. The other member countries are: Greece and Turkey (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), and Montenegro (2017). **The present secretary general of NATO is Jens Stoltenberg (Norway) (from October 2014).**

(C) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

It was formed on December 8, 1985, at Dhaka but the idea for the organization was first mooted by the former President of Bangladesh Zia-ur-Rahman. **There are eight members in the organization, i.e. (i) Nepal, (ii) Bangladesh, (iii) Sri Lanka, (iv) Maldives, (v) Bhutan, (vi) Pakistan and (vii) India (viii) Afghanistan (the latest member).** **The Secretariat of SAARC is at Kathmandu (Nepal).** The current Secretary General of SAARC is **Esala Ruwan Weerakoon** from Sri Lanka.

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.3

(D) The Commonwealth

This is an association of independent states which originated in 1947 and formally made up the British Empire. The symbolic head of the Commonwealth is the British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. At present, there are over 50 countries which are the members of the Commonwealth. **Patricia Janet Scotland** was elected the **6th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations** at the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and took office April 1, 2016. She is the first and current woman Secretary General Commonwealth. **The former Secretary -General was Kamalesh Sharma.**

(E) Group of 77

The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries signatories of the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries" issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. Although the members of the G-77 have increased to 134 countries, the original name was retained due to its historic significance.

(F) Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

For controlling the production and pricing of crude oil, OPEC was established on September 14, 1960 by Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. **It is headquartered at Vienna, Austria** was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization. These countries were later joined by Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), Gabon (1975) and Angola (2007). Ecuador suspended its membership in December 1992, but rejoined OPEC in October 2007. Indonesia suspended its membership in January 2009, reactivated it again in January 2016, but decided to suspend its membership once more at the 171st Meeting of the OPEC Conference on 30 November 2016. Gabon terminated its membership in January 1995. However, it rejoined the Organization in July 2016. **The latest country to leave from OPEC is Qatar**; it left the OPEC with effect from January, 2019. **H. E. Maanoud Anusi Barkindo** is currently the Secretary General of the OPEC.

(G) Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

The concept of Non-Aligned Movement was developed by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India. The former members of this movement were.

President of Egypt – G.A. Nasser

President of Indonesia – Dr. Sukarno

President of former Yugoslavia – Marshal Tito

Established in 1961 in Belgrade. As of 2019 it has 120 members and 17 observer countries. Ilham Aliyev is the current Secretary General of NAM.

(H) Other important organizations

Organization	Year of establishment	Headquartered at
*SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organization)	September 4, 1954	Bangkok in Thailand
OAU (Organization of African Union)	May 25, 1963	Adis Ababa in Ethiopia
ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations)	August 9, 1967	Jakarta in Indonesia

*** Please note that SEATO was dissolved on June 30, 1977.**

(I) World Trade Organization (WTO)

By replacing General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), **it came into existence on January 1, 1995.** It is the third important Economic Organization after the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and **it can settle trade disputes between nations and encourages the principle of free trade to sectors such as agriculture and services, etc. India was one of the founding members of WTO.**

7.4

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Afghanistan became the 164th member of the Organization on 29 July, 2016. The present strength of WTO is 164 members (as on July 25, 2018); headquartered at Geneva it is headed by Director General Roberto Azevedo (Brazil).

(J) The Group of 15 (G-15)

It is an economic grouping of 15 nations of the world which are Third World nations and was formed in 1989 in Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit at Belgrade.

(K) Amnesty International

It was established by a **British lawyer Peter Berenson on May 28, 1961** in **London** which is its headquarters also. It is primarily concerned with the investigation in the violations of human rights. It has more than 11 lakhs members in about 150 countries throughout the world.

(L) Interpole

The current Secretary General is Kim Jong Yang, unanimously elected at the 83rd INTERPOL General Assembly session in Monaco, November 2014. It is world largest International Police Organization, with 190 member countries. It has seven regional offices across the world, and a representative office at the United Nations in New York and at European Union in Brussels. It's an international organization of police commissions of the member countries which are about 150 in number and was established in 1923. **Its headquarters are at Lyons, France.**

(M) European Union (EU)

It is a group of European countries which got united to become strong — politically and economically, so that war would not be a threat any more. This organization came into existence after Second World War, in 1957, having its **headquarters at Brussels, Belgium**. At present there are **28 members in the European Union and the membership is open to any European country**. The headquarters of EU is at **Brussels in Belgium**. **Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen (Germany) is the 13th President of the European Commission. She is the first woman to become President of the European Commission. Charles Michel (Belgium) is current President of European Council.** The UK formally left the EU on 31 January 2020, following on a public vote held in June 2016. As of December 2020, the United Kingdom is the only former member state to have withdrawn from the European Union. The process to do so began when the UK Government triggered Article 50 to begin the UK's withdrawal from the EU on 29 March 2017 following a June 2016 referendum, and the withdrawal was scheduled in law to occur on 29 March 2019.

(N) Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)

It is head quartered at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Having 57 muslim countries as members, it was established after a historical summit on September 25, 1969. It aims to promote Islamic co-operation and solidarity. **Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen is the current secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), since November 2016.**

(O) Red Cross

Formed by **Swiss businessman J.H. Durant in 1863**, it is the pioneering organization in providing medical aid throughout the world. **Red Cross Day is celebrated on May 8**; its symbol is red cross on a white background. **This organization has received Nobel Prize on three occasions.** The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a private humanitarian institution founded in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland, by Henry Dunant and Gustave Moynier. Its 25-member committee has a unique authority under international humanitarian law to protect the life and dignity of the victims of international and internal armed conflicts. The ICRC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on three occasions (in 1917, 1944 and 1963). The ICRC is governed by an Assembly, an Assembly Council (a subsidiary body with certain delegated powers) and a Directorate (the executive body). Both the Assembly, with up to 25 co-opted members of Swiss nationality, and the Assembly Council are

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.5

chaired by Peter Maurer, who has been President of the ICRC since 1 July 2012. He is assisted by a Vice-President, Christine Beerli. The Directorate, with five members, is chaired by the Director-General, Mr. Yves Daccord.

(P) The Group of Eight (G-8)

It is basically a group of eight countries (as the name indicates). These are world's richest industrialized nations, i.e. **Italy, Canada, USA, UK, Japan, Germany, France and Russia**. The forum primarily works to resolve issues of either mutual concern or of global concern. **The G8 reformatted as G7 from 2014 due to Russia's suspension**. It was an inter-governmental political forum from 1997 until 2014, with the participation of the major industrialized countries in the world that viewed themselves as democracies.

(Q) Medicin Sans Frontieres (MSF)

It was formed in 1971 by a small group of French doctors who believed that all people have the right to medical care. It is a private, non-profit organization. This organization is also known as Doctors without Borders. This delivers emergency aid to the needy. This organization won the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 1999.

(R) World Bank

Established as a result of Bretton Woods Conference in 1944 with the objective of assisting the member nations in their reconstruction and development. The bank is headquartered at Washington D.C. World Bank as an International Financial Institution comprises of only two institutions (a) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. (b) International Development Association. **Its present President is David Malpass**.

(S) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

It provides loans to member nations to tide over their balance of payment (lack of foreign exchange to pay for imports) problems. It is headquartered in Washington D.C. It is also called the twin organisation of World Bank. Both of them are popularly referred to as **Eiffel Tower Twins**. **Andorra** has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to become its 190th member. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership. **Kristalina Ivanova Georgieva-Kinova (Kristalina Georgieva) is a Bulgarian economist, who is the current managing director of the International Monetary Fund**. Christine Lagarde served as Chair and Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), between July 2011 and November 2019. **Gita Gopinath was appointed as Chief Economist of IMF** from 1 October 2018. Prior to her IMF appointment she was economic adviser to the Chief Minister of Kerala, India.

(T) World Social Forum (WSF)

World social forum was started in Porto Alegre in Brazil. It is an antiglobalization movement, and its annual meets are held parallel to the annual sessions of World Economic Forum (at Davos).

Heads of Important International Organizations

1. United Nations Secretary General: Ant3nio Guterres
2. President of the International Court of Justice: Ronny Abraham
3. Director-General of International Labor Organization (ILO): Guy Ryder
4. Director-General of Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO): Dr QU Dongyu
5. Director-General of World Health Organization (WHO): Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
6. Head of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): Henrietta H. Fore

7.6

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Flippo Grandi
8. Director-General of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Audrey Azoulay
9. President of the World Bank (WB): David Malpass
10. Managing Director the International Monetary Fund (IMF): Kristalina Georgieva
11. Director-General of World Trade Organization (WTO): Robert Azevedo
12. Head International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): Rafael Mariano Grossi
13. Secretary-General of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM): Ilham Aliyev
14. Secretary-General of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC): Esala Ruwan Weerakoon
15. Head of the Commonwealth of Nations: Queen Elizabeth-II
16. Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations: Patricia Scotland
17. Secretary General of Amnesty International: Julie Verhaar (Acting)
18. Secretary-General of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Jose Angel Gurría
19. Secretary General of Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries (OPEC): HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
20. President of European Commission: Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen
21. President International Olympic Committee (IOC): Thomas Bach
22. Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC): Greg Barclay
23. Chief Executive Officer of International Cricket Council: Manu Sawhney
24. President of FIFA: Gianni Infantino
25. Chairman of Federal Reserve Bank of America: Jerome Powell
26. President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB): Masatsugu Asakawa

Important Awards

The Nobel Prizes 2020

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2020: The Nobel Prize in Physics 2020 was divided, one half awarded to Roger Penrose "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity", the other half jointly to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy."

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020: The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 was awarded jointly to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna "for the development of a method for genome editing." The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, awarded for the discovery of one of gene technology's sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors.

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2020: The Nobel Prize in Literature 2020 was awarded to Louise Glück "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal."

The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize: The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 was awarded to World Food Programme (WFP) "for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict."

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020: The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020 was awarded jointly to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats."

Pulitzer Prizes 2020

The 2020 Pulitzer Prize winners in 15 Journalism and seven Book, Drama and Music categories were announced on Monday, May 4 at 3 p.m. Eastern. A Special Citation was also awarded.

Breaking News Reporting

Staff of The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

For its rapid coverage of hundreds of last-minute pardons by Kentucky's governor, showing how the process was marked by opacity, racial disparities and violations of legal norms. (Moved by the jury from Local Reporting, where it was originally entered.)

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.7

Investigative Reporting

Brian M. Rosenthal of The New York Times

For an exposé of New York City's taxi industry that showed how lenders profited from predatory loans that shattered the lives of vulnerable drivers, reporting that ultimately led to state and federal investigations and sweeping reforms.

Explanatory Reporting

Staff of The Washington Post

For a groundbreaking series that showed with scientific clarity the dire effects of extreme temperatures on the planet.

Local Reporting

Staff of The Baltimore Sun

For illuminating, impactful reporting on a lucrative, undisclosed financial relationship between the city's mayor and the public hospital system she helped to oversee.

National Reporting

T. Christian Miller, Megan Rose and Robert Faturechi of ProPublica

For their investigation into America's 7th Fleet after a series of deadly naval accidents in the Pacific.

Dominic Gates, Steve Miletich, Mike Baker and Lewis Kamb of The Seattle Times

For groundbreaking stories that exposed design flaws in the Boeing 737 MAX that led to two deadly crashes and revealed failures in government oversight.

International Reporting

Staff of The New York Times

For a set of enthralling stories, reported in great detail, exposing the predations of Vladimir Putin's regime.

Feature Writing

Ben Taub of The New Yorker

For a devastating account of a man who was kidnapped, tortured and deprived of his liberty for more than a decade at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, blending on-the-ground reporting and lyrical prose to offer a nuanced perspective on America's wider war on terror. (Moved into contention by the Board.)

Commentary

Nikole Hannah-Jones of The New York Times

For a sweeping, provocative and personal essay for the ground-breaking 1619 Project, which seeks to place the enslavement of Africans at the center of America's story, prompting public conversation about the nation's founding and evolution.

Criticism

Christopher Knight of the Los Angeles Times

For work demonstrating extraordinary community service by a critic, applying his expertise and enterprise to critique a proposed overhaul of the L.A. County Museum of Art and its effect on the institution's mission.

Editorial Writing

Jeffery Gerritt of the Palestine (Tx.) Herald Press

For editorials that exposed how pre-trial inmates died horrific deaths in a small Texas county jail-reflecting a rising trend across the state-and courageously took on the local sheriff and judicial establishment, which tried to cover up these needless tragedies.

Editorial Cartooning

Barry Blitt, contributor, The New Yorker

For work that skewers the personalities and policies emanating from the Trump White House with deceptively sweet watercolor style and seemingly gentle caricatures. (Moved into contention by the Board.)

7.8

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Breaking News Photography

Photography Staff of Reuters

For wide-ranging and illuminating photographs of Hong Kong as citizens protested infringement of their civil liberties and defended the region's autonomy by the Chinese government.

Feature Photography

Channi Anand, Mukhtar Khan and Dar Yasin of Associated Press

For striking images captured during a communications blackout in Kashmir depicting life in the contested territory as India stripped it of its semi-autonomy.

Audio Reporting

Staff of This American Life with Molly O'Toole of the Los Angeles Times and Emily Green, freelancer, Vice News

For "The Out Crowd," revelatory, intimate journalism that illuminates the personal impact of the Trump Administration's "Remain in Mexico" policy.

Public Service

Anchorage Daily News with contributions from ProPublica

For a riveting series that revealed a third of Alaska's villages had no police protection, took authorities to task for decades of neglect, and spurred an influx of money and legislative changes.

Letters, Drama and Music

Drama

A Strange Loop, by Michael R. Jackson

A metafictional musical that tracks the creative process of an artist transforming issues of identity, race, and sexuality that once pushed him to the margins of the industry into a meditation on universal human fears and insecurities.

History

Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America, by W. Caleb McDaniel (Oxford University Press)

A masterfully researched meditation on reparations based on the remarkable story of a 19th century woman who survived kidnapping and re-enslavement to sue her captor.

Biography

Sontag: Her Life and Work, by Benjamin Moser (Ecco)

An authoritatively constructed work told with pathos and grace, that captures the writer's genius and humanity alongside her addictions, sexual ambiguities and volatile enthusiasms.

Poetry

The Tradition, by Jericho Brown (Copper Canyon Press)

A collection of masterful lyrics that combine delicacy with historical urgency in their loving evocation of bodies vulnerable to hostility and violence.

General Nonfiction

The Undying: Pain, Vulnerability, Mortality, Medicine, Art, Time, Dreams, Data, Exhaustion, Cancer, and Care, by Anne Boyer (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

An elegant and unforgettable narrative about the brutality of illness and the capitalism of cancer care in America.

The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America, by Greg Grandin (Metropolitan Books)

A sweeping and beautifully written book that probes the American myth of boundless expansion and provides a compelling context for thinking about the current political moment. (Moved by the Board from the History category.)

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.9

Music

The Central Park Five, by Anthony Davis

Premiered on June 15, 2019 at the Long Beach Opera, a courageous operatic work, marked by powerful vocal writing and sensitive orchestration, that skillfully transforms a notorious example of contemporary injustice into something empathetic and hopeful. Libretto by Richard Wesley.

Fiction

The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead (Doubleday)

A spare and devastating exploration of abuse at a reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida that is ultimately a powerful tale of human perseverance, dignity and redemption.

Special Citation

Ida B. Wells

For her outstanding and courageous reporting on the horrific and vicious violence against African Americans during the era of lynching.

The citation comes with a bequest by the Pulitzer Prize board of at least \$50,000 in support of her mission. Recipients will be announced at a later date.

Man Booker International Prize 2020

The International Man Booker Prize for the year 2020 awarded to Marieke Lucas Rigneveld for her debut novel *The Discomfort of Evening*, translated from Dutch by Michele Hutchison. The book centres around a 10-year-old girl Jas who is infuriated with her brother Matthies for not being permitted to go for ice-skating with him. This occurs at the onset of the novel. Her wish turns true and he dies. The debut novel then is a fascinating case study of grief.

Booker Prize 2020

The Booker Prize of the 2020 has been announced and the coveted honour has been bestowed on Douglas Stuart's *Shuggie Bain*. In his debut work, Stuart presents a tightly-cut portrait of the working class during the 1980s in Glasgow. But at its heart, it is about a family struggling to survive with children loving damaged parents amidst all the struggle.

Ramon Magsaysay Award - 2021

Ramon Magsaysay awards, known as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, have been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Manila-based foundation issued a statement on June 9, 2020 saying that it has no choice but to cancel the 2020 awards with COVID-19 almost immobilizing the world. This is the third time that the annual awards have been cancelled in the last six decades, the first time was due to a financial crisis in 1970 and the second time when a disastrous earthquake hit the Philippines in 1990.

Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2019

Senior Indian journalist **Ravish Kumar** was awarded this year's **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. He is NDTV India's senior executive editor is one of India's most influential TV journalists, the award citation by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said. **The four other winners of the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award are Ko Swe Win from Myanmar, Angkhana Neelapajit from Thailand, Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab from Philippines and Kim Jong-Ki from South Korea.**

The Abel Prize 2020

The Abel Prize 2020 has been awarded to Hillel Furstenberg and Gregory Margulis "for pioneering the use of methods from probability and dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics". The prize, which has been awarded since 2003, is one of the highest honours in maths and carries a prize money of around \$400,000.

2020 Right Livelihood Award

2020 Laureates of the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize," are honoured, December 3, 2020 in a live virtual Award Presentation. The 2020 Laureates honoured are: Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, US civil rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson, Indigenous rights and environmental activist Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua, and Belarusian human rights activist Ales Bialiatski and the non-governmental organisation Human Rights Center "Viasna." As part of the Award, the four Laureates are each receiving 1 million SEK to further their work.

World Food Prize 2020

Indian-American soil scientist - Dr. Rattan Lal - has been declared the winner of the World Food Prize 2020. He played a major role in developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that

7.10

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change. Three separate United Nations Climate Change Conferences have adopted his strategy of restoring soil health as a means to sequestering carbon. In 2007, he was among those recognised with a Nobel Peace Prize Certificate for his contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, when the IPCC was named co-recipient of the Nobel Prize.

Jnanpith Award (2019)

Noted Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri, popularly known as Akkitham, was declared the recipient of the 55th Jnanpith Award, the country's highest literary honour.

Saraswati Samman (2019)

Noted Sindhi writer Vasdev Mohi was honoured with 29th Saraswati Samman. He has been selected for his short stories collection:- Chequebook, published in 2012. This short stories collection talks about the agonies and sufferings of marginalized sections of the society. He has authored 25 books of poetry, stories and translations. He has also received the Sahitya Akademi Award.

Academy Awards or "Oscars Awards"

The 92nd Academy Awards ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honored films released in 2019 and took place on February 9, 2020, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, and beginning. During the ceremony, the AMPAS presented Academy Awards (commonly referred to as Oscars) in 24 categories. The ceremony, televised in the United States by ABC, was produced by Stephanie Allain and Lynette Howell Taylor and was directed by Glenn Weiss. Parasite won four awards including Best Picture, the first non-English language film to win that award.

Oscars 2020 winner list

Best Picture: "Parasite"

Best Director: Bong Joon Ho, "Parasite"

Best Actor: Joaquin Phoenix, "Joker"

Best Actress: Renée Zellweger, "Judy"

Best Supporting Actor: Brad Pitt, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"

Best Supporting Actress: Laura Dern, "Marriage Story"

Best Original Screenplay: "Parasite"

Best Adapted Screenplay: "Jojo Rabbit"

Best International Feature: "Parasite" (South Korea)

67th National Film Awards

The 67th National Film Awards ceremony is an upcoming event during which the Directorate of Film Festivals presents its annual National Film Awards to honour the best films of 2019 in the Indian cinema. The ceremony was supposed to held on 3 May 2020 but they were postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19 pandemic.

66th National Film Awards

Ayushmann Khurrana-Radhika Apte starrer Andhadhun has won the 'Best Film' award in the 66th National Film Awards announced. Aditya Dhar-directorial debut Uri: The Surgical Strike has bagged four awards - best actor, best background music, best sound design and best direction in the 66th National Film Awards 2019.

Best Actor: Ayushmann Khurrana, Andhadhun, and Vicky Kaushal, Uri

Best Actress: Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati

Best Direction: Aditya Dhar for Uri

Best Feature Film: Hellaro (Gujarati)

Best Children's Film: Sarkari. Hi. Pra. Shale Kasaragodu, Koduge

Best Film on Environment Conservation: Paani

Nargis Dutt Award for National Integration: Ondanya Eradalu

Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Badhaai Ho

Jury Awards: Kedara (Bengali), Hellaro (Gujarati)

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.11

Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of A Director: Sudhakar Reddy Yakanthi for Naal

Best Female Playback singer: Bindu Mani for Mayavi Manave from Nathicharami

Best Male Playback Singer: Arijit Singh for Binte Dil from Padmaavat

Best film on social issues: Pad Man

Best music director: Padmaavat

Best Rajasthani Film: Turtle

Best Panchanga Film: In The Land Of Poisonous Women

Best Garo Film: Anna

Best Marathi Film: Bhonga

Best Tamil Film: Baram

Best Hindi Film: Andhadhun

Best Urdu Film: Hamid

Best Bengali Film: Ek Je Chhilo Raja

Best Malayalam Film: Sudani From Nigeria

Best Telugu Film: Mahanati

Best Kannada Film: Nathicharami

Best Konkani Film: Amori

Best Assamese Film: Bulbul Can Sing

Best Punjabi Film: Harjeeta

Best Gujarati Film: Reva

Dada Saheb Phalke Award

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. First presented in 1969, the award was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema.

- Bollywood's megastar Amitabh Bachchan has been selected for Dada Saheb Phalke award this year. Amitabh Bachchan to be honoured with Dada Saheb Phalke Award 2019.
- At the 65th National Film Awards, late actor Vinod Khanna was posthumously honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. This award is considered as the highest honour in Indian cinema and is presented annually by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The award is given for a personality's "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema". Vinod Khanna is the 49th recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

65th Filmfare Awards 2020

The 65th Filmfare Awards ceremony, presented by The Times Group, honored the best Indian Hindi-language films of 2019. The ceremony was held on 15 February 2020 in Guwahati and broadcast on Colors TV the following day. This is the first time in six decades that a Filmfare ceremony was held outside Mumbai. Karan Johar and Vicky Kaushal were hosts of the award ceremony.

Best Film: 'Gully Boy'

Best Director: Zoya Akhtar ('Gully Boy')

Best Film (Critics): 'Article 15' (Anubhav Sinha), 'Sonchiriyaa' (Abhishek Chaubey)

Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male): Ranveer Singh ('Gully Boy')

Best Actor (Critics): Ayushmann Khurrana ('Article 15')

Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female): Alia Bhatt ('Gully Boy')

Best Actress (Critics): Bhumi Pednekar ('Saand Ki Aankh'), Taapsee ('Saand Ki Aankh')

Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Female): Amruta Subhash ('Gully Boy')

Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male): Siddhant Chaturvedi ('Gully Boy')

Best Music Album: 'Gully Boy' | Zoya Akhtar-Ankur Tewari, 'Kabir Singh' | Mithoon, Amaal Mallik, Vishal Mishra, Sachet-Parampara and Akhil Sachdeva

Best Lyrics: Divine and Ankur Tewari - Apna Time Aayega - 'Gully Boy'

7.12

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

- Best Playback Singer (Male):** Arijit Singh...Kalank Nahi...'Kalank'
- Best Playback Singer (Female):** Shilpa Rao...Ghungroo...'War'
- Best Debut Director:** Aditya Dhar - 'Uri: The Surgical Strike'
- Best Debut Actor:** Abhimanyu Dassani - 'Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota'
- Best Debut Actress:** Ananya Pandey - 'Student Of The Year 2', 'Pati Patni Aur Woh'
- Best Original Story:** 'Article 15' - Anubhav Sinha and Gaurav Solanki
- Best Screenplay:** 'Gully Boy' - Reema Kagti and Zoya Akhtar
- Best Dialogue:** 'Gully Boy'- Vijay Maurya
- Lifetime Achievement Award:** Ramesh Sippy
- Excellence In Cinema:** Govinda
- RD Burman Award For Upcoming Music Talent:** Sashwat Sachdev- URI

66th Jio Filmfare Awards (South) 2019

- Best Film:** Mahanati
- Best Director:** Nag Ashwin (Mahanati)
- Best Actor In A Leading Role Male (Popular):** Ram Charan (Rangasthalam)
- Best Actor Critics:** Dulquer Salman (Mahanti)
- Best Actor In A Leading Role Female (Popular):** Keerthi Suresh (Mahanati)
- Best Actress Critics:** Rashmika Mandanna(Geetha Govindam)
- Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male):** Jagapati Babu (Aravinda Sametha Veera Raghava)
- Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Female):** Anasuya Bharadwaj (Rangasthalam)
- Best Music Album:** Devi Sri Prasad - (Rangasthalam)
- Best Lyrics:** Chandrabose - Yentha Sakkaunnave (Rangasthalam)
- Best Playback Singer (Male):** Sid Sriram, Inkomaram Inkomaram, Kavya (Geetha Govindam)
- Best Playback Singer (Female):** Shriya Chabria, Rashmika Mandanna, Manojra (Bhaagamathie)

Tennis Grand Slams

2020 Australian Open Champions:

- Men's Singles:** Novak Djokovic
- Women's Singles:** Sofia Kenin
- Men's Doubles:** Rajeev Ram / United Kingdom Joe Salisbury
- Women's Doubles:** Tímea Babos / France Kristina Mladenovic
- Mixed Doubles:** Barbora Krejckova / Nikola Pietrangeli

2020 French Open Champions:

- Men's Singles:** Rafael Nadal
- Women's Singles:** Iga Swiatek
- Men's Doubles:** Kevin Krawietz / Germany Andreas Mies
- Women's Doubles:** Tímea Babos / France Kristina Mladenovic

2020 Wimbledon Champions

The 2020 Wimbledon Championships was a cancelled Grand Slam tennis tournament scheduled to be played at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom, between 29 June and 12 July. It was never played because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The cancellation of the tournament was announced on 1 April 2020. Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep were the defending champions in the men's and women's singles draw.

2020 US Open Champions

- Men's Singles:** Dominic Thiem
- Women's Singles:** Naomi Osaka
- Men's Doubles:** Mate Pavic / Brazil Bruno Soares
- Women's Doubles:** Laura Siegemund / Russia Vera Zvonareva

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.13

List of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardees

Year	Name of the Sportsperson(s)	Sport Discipline
1991-92	Viswanathan Anand	Chess
1992-93	Geet Sethi	Billiards
1993-94	Not Conferred* -	
1994-95	Cdr. Homi D. Motivala	(Joint) Yachting (Team Event)
1994-95	Lt. Cdr. P. K. Garg	(Joint) Yachting (Team Event)
1995-96	Karnam Malleswari	Weightlifting
1996-97	Nameirakpam Kunjarani	(Joint) Weightlifting
1996-97	Leander Paes	(Joint) Tennis
1997-98	Sachin Tendulkar	Cricket
1998-99	Jyotirmoyee Sikdar	Athletics
1999-2000	Dhanraj Pillay	Hockey
2000-01	Pullela Gopichand	Badminton
2001-02	Abhinav Bindra	Shooting
2002-03	Anjali Ved Pathak Bhagwat	(Joint) Shooting
2002-03	K. M. Beenamol	(Joint) Athletics
2003-04	Anju Bobby George	Athletics
2004-05	Lt. Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore	Shooting
2005-06	Pankaj Advani	Billiards and Snooker
2006-07	Manavjit Singh Sandhu	Shooting
2007-08	Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Cricket
2008-09	Mary Kom	(Joint) Boxing
2008-09	Vijender Singh	(Joint) Boxing
2008-09	Sushil Kumar	(Joint) Wrestling
2009-10	Saina Nehwal	Badminton
2010-11	Gagan Narang	Shooting
2011-12	Vijay Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt (Joint)	Shooting, Wrestling
2012-13	Ranjan Sodhi	Shooting
2013-14	No sportsperson has been named for the prestigious award. This is the third time no sports-person has been named since its inception of the country's heighest sporting award in 1991.	
2014-15	Ms Sania Mirza	Tennis
2015-16	P.V. Sindhu	Badminton
2015-16	Sakshi Malik	Wrestling
2015-16	Dipa Karmakar	Gymnastics
2015-16	Jitu Rai	Shooting
2016-17	Devendra Jhajharia	Athletics
2016-17	Sardara Singh	Hockey
2017-18	Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting
2017-18	Virat Kohli	Cricket
2018-19	Deepa Malik	Shot Put
2018-19	Bajrang Punia	Wrestling
2019-20	Rohit Sharma	Cricketer
2019-20	Vinesh Phogat	Wrestler
2019-20	Manika Batra	Table Tennis
2019-20	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Paralympic High Jumper

7.14

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

List of all Bharat Ratna awardees so far:

S.No.	Name	Birth Year	Death Year	Awarded Year	About
1	Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari	1878	1972	1954	Independence Activist, Last Governor General
2	Sir C.V Raman	1888	1970	1954	Physicist , Nobel Prize Winner (1930)
3	Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1888	1975	1954	Philosopher, India's First Vice President (1952-1962), and India's Second President (1962-1967)
4	Bhagvan Das	1869	1958	1955	Independence activist, author
5	Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya	1861	1962	1955	Civil engineer, Diwan of Mysore
6	Jawaharlal Nehru	1889	1964	1955	Independence activist, author, First Prime Minister (1947-1964)
7	Govind Ballabh Pant	1887	1961	1957	Independence activist, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Home Minister
8	Dhondo Keshav Karve	1858	1962	1958	Educator, social reformer
9	Bidhan Chandra Roy	1882	1962	1961	Physician, Chief Minister Of West Bengal
10	Purushottam Das Tandon	1882	1963	1961	Independence activist, educator
11	Rajendra Prasad	1884	1963	1962	Independence activist, jurist, First President (1950-1962)
12	Zakir Hussain	1897	1969	1963	Independence activist, Scholar, Third President (1967-1969)
13	Pandurang Vaman Kane	1880	1972	1963	Indologist and Sanskrit scholar
14	Lal Bahadur Shastri	1904	1966	1966	Posthumous, independence activist, Second Prime Minister (1964-1966)
15	Indira Gandhi	1917	1984	1971	Third Prime Minister (1980-1984)
16	V.V. Giri	1894	1980	1975	Trade unionist and Fourth President (1969)
17	K. Kamaraj	1903	1975	1976	Posthumous, independence activist, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu State
18	Mother Teresa	1910	1997	1980	Catholic nun, founder of the Missionaries of Charity
19	Vinoba Bhave	1895	1982	1983	Posthumous, social reformer, independence activist
20	Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan	1890	1988	1987	First non-citizen, independence activist
21	M.G. Ramchandran	1917	1987	1988	Posthumous, film actor, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.15

S.No.	Name	Birth Year	Death Year	Awarded Year	About
22	B.R. Ambedkar	1891	1956	1990	Posthumous, chief architect of the Indian Constitution, politician, economist, and scholar
23	Nelson Mandela	1918	2013	1990	Second non-citizen and non-Indian recipient, Leader of the Anti-Apartheid movement
24	Rajiv Gandhi	1944	1991	1991	Posthumous, Sixth Prime Minister (1984-1989)
25	Vallabhbhai Patel	1875	1950	1991	Posthumous, independence activist, first Home Minister (1947-1950)
26	Morarji Desai	1896	1995	1991	Independence activist, fourth Prime Minister (1977-1979)
27	Abul Kalam Azad	1888	1958	1992	Posthumous, independence activist, first Minister of Education
28	J. R. D. Tata	1904	1993	1992	Industrialist and philanthropist
29	Satyajit Ray	1922	1992	1992	Bengali Filmmaker
30	A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	1931	2015	1997	Aeronautical Engineer, 11th President of India
31	Gulzarilal Nanda	1898	1998	1997	Independence activist, interim Prime Minister
32	Aruna Asaf Ali	1908	1966	1997	Posthumous independence activist
33	M.S. Subbulakshmi	1916	2004	1998	Carnatic classical singer
34	Chidambaram Subramaniam	1910	2000	1998	Independence activist, Minister of Agriculture
35	Jayaprakash Narayan	1902	1979	1999	Posthumous, independence activist and politician
36	Ravi Shankar	1920	2012	1999	Sitar Player
37	Amartya Sen	1933		1999	Economist
38	Gopinath Bardoloi	1890	1950	1999	Posthumous, independence activist, Chief Minister of Assam
39	Lata Mangeshkar	1929		2001	Playback singer
40	Bismillah Khan	1916	2006	2001	Hindustani Classical Shehnai Player
41	Bhimsen Joshi	1922	2011	2008	Hindustani Classical Singer
42	Sachin Tendulkar	1973		2013	Indian Cricketer, First Sportsman and Youngest Indian who got Bharat Ratna
43	Prof. C.N.R Rao	1934		2013	Chemist
44	Madan Mohan Malaviya	1861	1946	2014	Educationist and politician
45	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	1924	2018	2014	Former Prime Minister of India (1996), (1998), (1999-2004)
46	Pranab Mukherjee	1935		2019	Former President of India (2013-17)
47	Bhupen Hazarika	1926	2011	2019	Indian playback singer, lyricist, musician
48	Nanaji Deshmukh	1916	2010	2019	Social Activist

7.16

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Important Days

International

Date	Name of the Day
January 26	International Customs Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 15	World Consumers' Day
March 21	World Forestry Day
March 22	World Day for Water
March 23	World Meteorological Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 17	World Haemophilia Day
April 18	World Heritage Day
April 22	World Earth Day
May 1	International Labour Day
May 3	International Press Freedom Day
May 8	World Red Cross Day
May 31	Anti-tobacco Day/World No Tobacco Day
June 5	World Environment Day
June 21	International Yoga Day
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
July 11	World Population Day
August 12	International Youth Day
September 8	World Literacy Day
September 16	World Ozone Day
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 3	World Habitat Day
October 14	World Standards Day
October 16	World Food Day
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 10	World Human Rights Day

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.17

National

Date	Name of the Day
January 12	National Youth Day (birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)
January 15	Army Day
January 23	Netaji S.C. Bose's Birth Anniversary
January 26	Republic Day
January 30	Martyr's Day (Mahatma Gandhi's Death Anniversary)
February 24	Central Excise Day
February 28	National Science Day
May 21	Antiterrorism Day (Rajiv Gandhi's Death Anniversary)
August 15	Independence Day
August 29	National Sports Day
September 5	Teachers' Day
October 2	Gandhi Jayanti/International Day for Non-Violence
October 8	Indian Air Force Day
November 14	Children's Day
December 4	Navy Day
December 23	Kisan Divas (Farmers' Day)

7.18

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Important Sobriquets

Distinctive Name	Country / Place
Bengal's Sorrow	Damodar river
Blue Mountains	Nilgiris
City of Arabian Nights	Baghdad
City of Palaces	Kolkata
City of Seven Hills/Eternal city	Rome
City of Skyscrapers /Empire city / Big Apple	New York
City of the Golden Gate	San Francisco
City of Joy	Kolkata
Commercial Capital of India	Mumbai
Dairy of Northern Europe	Denmark
Dark Continent	Africa
Forbidden City	Lhasa (Tibet)
Garden of England	Kent
Garden City of India	Bangalore
Gate of Tears	Bab el Manab, Jerusalem
Gateway of India	Mumbai
Gift of the Nile	Egypt
Golden City	Johannesburg
Great White Way	Broadway (New York)
Hermit's Kingdom	Korea
Holy Land	Palestine
Island of Pearls	Bahrain
Key to the Mediterranean	Gibraltar
Land of Five Rivers	Punjab
Land of a Thousand Lakes	Finland
Land of Cakes	Scotland
Land of Kangaroos	Australia
Land of Lillies /Lady of Snow	Canada
Land of Morning Calm	Korea

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.19

Distinctive Name	Country / Place
Land of the Golden Fleece	Australia
Land of the Golden Pagoda	Myanmar
Land of the Midnight Sun	Norway
Land of the Rising Sun	Japan
Land of Thunderbolt	Bhutan
Land of White Elephants	Thailand
Manchester of South India	Coimbatore
Mother-in-Law of Europe	Denmark
Never, Never Land	Prairies (North America)
Pink City of India	Jaipur
Playground of Europe	Switzerland
Queen of the Arabian Sea	Cochin (India)
Roof of the World	Pamir (Tibet)
Sick Man of Europe	Turkey
Sorrow of China /Yellow River	River Hwang Ho
Spice Garden of India	Kerala
Sugar Bowl of the World	Cuba
Sugar Bowl of India	Uttar Pradesh
The Battlefield of Europe	Belgium
The Down Under	Australia
The Imperial City	Rome
The Promised Land	Canaan
The Saw Mill of Europe	Sweden
The Sea of Mountains	British Colombia
The Spice Island of the West	Grenada
Twin City	Budapest
Valley of Kings	Thebes
White City	Belgrade
White Man's Grave	Guinea Coast (West Africa)
Windy City	Chicago
Workshop of Europe	Belgium
World's Bread Basket	Prairies of North America

7.20

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Important Books and Authors

Name of the book	Author
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<i>Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
<i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The</i>	Mark Twain
<i>Ain-i-Akbari</i>	Abul Fazal
<i>Alchemist, The</i>	Paulo Coelho
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	Lewis Carroll
<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>An American Tragedy</i>	Theodore Dreiser
<i>An Idealist View of Life</i>	Dr S. Radhakrishnan
<i>Anand Math</i>	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
<i>Androcles and the Lion</i>	George Bernard Shaw
<i>Ape and Essence</i>	A. Huxley
<i>Apple Cart</i>	George Bernard Shaw
<i>Arabian Nights</i>	Sir F. Charles Burton
<i>Area of Darkness</i>	V. S. Naipaul
<i>Arthashastra</i>	Kautilya
<i>Arms and the Man</i>	George Bernard Shaw
<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>	Jules Verne
<i>As You Like it</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Autobiography of an Unknown Indian</i>	Nirad C. Choudhury



<i>Babur-nama</i>	Babur
<i>Between the Lines</i>	Kuldip Nayar
<i>Bharat Bharati</i>	Maithili Sharan Gupt
<i>Bitter Sweet</i>	Noel Coward
<i>Brave New World</i>	Aldous Huxley
<i>Broken Wing</i>	Sarojini Naidu
<i>Bunch of Old Letters, A</i>	Jawaharlal Nehru

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.21

Name of the book	Author
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<i>Caesar and Cleopatra</i>	George Bernard Shaw
<i>Canterbury Tales</i>	Geoffrey Chaucer
<i>Chitra</i>	Rabindranath Tagore
<i>Comedy of Errors</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Coolie</i>	Mulk Raj Anand
<i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Fyodor Dostoevsky



<i>Das Kapital</i>	Karl Marx
<i>David Copperfield</i>	Charles Dickens
<i>Descent of Man</i>	Charles Darwin
<i>Dilemma of Our Time</i>	Harold Joseph Laski
<i>Discovery of India</i>	Jawaharlal Nehru
<i>Divine Life</i>	Swaraj Sivanand
<i>Doctor's Dilemma</i>	George Bernard Shaw
<i>Doctor Zhivago</i>	Boris Pasternak
<i>Don Juan</i>	Lord Byron



<i>Ends and Means</i>	Aldous Huxley
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<i>Farewell to Arms, A</i>	Ernest Hemingway
<i>First Among Equals</i>	Jeffrey Archer
<i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i>	Ernest Hemingway
<i>Freedom at Midnight</i>	Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre
<i>Future Shock</i>	Alvin Toffler

7.22

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Name of the book	Author
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<i>Geet Govinda</i>	Jay Deva
<i>Gitanjali</i>	Rabindranath Tagore
<i>Gita Rahasya</i>	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
<i>Glimpses of World History</i>	Jawaharlal Nehru
<i>Godan</i>	Munshi Prem Chand
<i>Golden Threshold</i>	Sarojini Naidu
<i>Golden Gate, The</i>	Vikram Seth
<i>Gone with the Wind</i>	Margaret Mitchell
<i>Gora</i>	Rabindranath Tagore
<i>Grammar of Politics</i>	Harold Laski
<i>Great Expectations</i>	Charles Dickens
<i>Guide, The</i>	R K. Narayan
<i>Gul-e-Naghma</i>	Raghupati Sahai Firaq
<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	Jonathan Swift



<i>Hamlet</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Harsha Charita</i>	Bana Bhatt
<i>Heat and Dust</i>	Ruth P. Jhabwala
<i>Hindu View of Life</i>	Dr S. Radhakrishnan

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.23

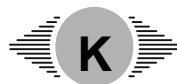
Name of the book	Author
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<i>If I am Assassinated</i>	Z. A. Bhutto
<i>Illiad</i>	Homer
<i>Importance of Being Earnest</i>	Oscar Wilde
<i>India Divided</i>	Rajendra Prasad
<i>India Wins Freedom</i>	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
<i>Indian Home Rule</i>	M. K. Gandhi
<i>Indian Philosophy</i>	Dr S. Radhakrishnan
<i>Invisible Man</i>	H. G. Wells
<i>Iron in the Soul</i>	Jean Paul Sartre
<i>Ivanhoe</i>	Walter Scott



<i>Judgement, The</i>	Kuldip Nayyar
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Jungle Book</i>	Rudyard Kipling



<i>Kadambari</i>	Bana Bhatt
<i>Kamasutra</i>	Vatsyayan
<i>Kamayani</i>	Jai Shankar Prasad
<i>King Lear</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Kumar Sambhava</i>	Kalidas



<i>Life Divine</i>	Aurobindo Ghosh
<i>Letters from a Father to his Daughter</i>	Jawaharlal Nehru
<i>Lolita</i>	V. Nabakov
<i>Love Story</i>	Eric Segal

7.24

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Name of the book	Author
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<i>Macbeth</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Mahabharata</i>	Ved Vyas
<i>Man and Superman</i>	George Bernard Shaw
<i>Man of Destiny</i>	George Bernard Shaw
<i>Meghdoot</i>	Kalidas
<i>Merchant of Venice</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Midnight's Children</i>	Salman Rushdie
<i>Mother</i>	Maxim Gorky
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Mudra Rakshas</i>	Vishakadutta
<i>My Experiments with Truth</i>	Mahatma Gandhi
<i>My Music, My Life</i>	Ravi Shankar
<i>My Truth</i>	Indira Gandhi



<i>Natya Shastra</i>	Bharat Muni
<i>Nine Days Wonder</i>	John Masefield



<i>Odyssey</i>	Homer
<i>Oliver Twist</i>	Charles Dickens
<i>Origin of Species</i>	Charles Darwin
<i>Othello</i>	William Shakespeare



<i>Panchatantra</i>	Vishnu Sharma
<i>Passage to England, A</i>	Nirad C. Choudhury
<i>Paradise Lost</i>	John Milton
<i>Passage to India, A</i>	E. M. Forster
<i>Patriot, The</i>	Pearl S. Buck
<i>Post Office</i>	Rabindranath Tagore
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austen

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.25

Name of the book	Author
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<i>Raghuvamsa</i>	Kalidas
<i>Ram Charita Manas</i>	Tulsidas
<i>Ramayana</i>	Valmiki
<i>Ratnavali</i>	Harsha Vardhan
<i>Ritu Samhara</i>	Kalidas
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Rubaiyat</i>	Omar Khayyam



<i>Sadar-i-Riyasat</i>	Karan Singh
<i>Satyartha Prakash</i>	Swami Dayanand Saraswati
<i>Savitri</i>	Sri Aurobindo Ghosh
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Jane Austen
<i>Satanic Verses, The</i>	Salman Rushdie
<i>Shahnama</i>	Firdausi
<i>Shakuntala</i>	Kalidas
<i>Shape of Things to Come</i>	H.G. Wells
<i>Shame</i>	Salman Rushdie
<i>Sohrab and Rustum</i>	Mathew Arnold
<i>Sunny Days</i>	Sunil Gavaskar



<i>Tale of Two Cities, A</i>	Charles Dickens
<i>Tempest, The</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Three Musketeers</i>	Alexander Dumas
<i>Time Machine</i>	H.G. Wells
<i>To Live or Not to Live</i>	Nirad C. Choudhury
<i>Triumph</i>	John Kenneth Galbraith
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Twenty Years After</i>	Alexander Dumas
<i>Two Leaves and a Bud</i>	Mulk Raj Anand

7.26

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Name of the book	Author
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<i>Ulysses</i>	James Joyce
<i>Unto This Last</i>	John Ruskin
<i>Utopia</i>	Thomas Moore
<i>Uttar Ramcharita</i>	Bhavbhuti



<i>Valley of Dolls</i>	Jacqueline Susann
<i>Vanity Fair</i>	William Thackeray
<i>Vinay Patrika</i>	Tulsidas
<i>Virginians, The</i>	William Thackeray
<i>Vish Vriksha</i>	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
<i>Voice of Conscience</i>	V.V. Giri



<i>Wake up India</i>	Anni B. Suman
<i>War and Peace</i>	Leo Tolstoy
<i>Wealth of Nations</i>	Adam Smith
<i>Wonder that Was India, The</i>	A.L. Basham



<i>Yama</i>	Mahadevi Verma
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Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.27

Important Abbreviations



AAFI	The Amateur Athletics Federation of India
ABC	Audit Bureau of Circulation
ACPC	Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission
AEZ	Agri Export Zone
AD	Anno Domini
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFP	Agence France Presse
AC	Ante Christum; Alternating Current
AI	Artificial Intelligence; Air India
AG	Accountant General
ARM	Additional Resource Mobilisation
AM	Ante Meridiem
APM	Administrative Pricing Mechanism
ASLV	Augmented Late Launch Vehicle
AICTE	All India Council for Technical Education
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASP	Application Service Provider; Association of Shareware Professionals
AIIMS	All India Institute of Medical Sciences
AITUC	All India Trade Union Congress
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	African National Congress
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
AGMARK	Agricultural Marketing Development
ALGOL	Algebraic Oriented Language (Algorithmic Language)
ASSOCHAM	Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry
AT&T	American Telegraphic and Telephone Co. Ltd.
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
AWACS	Airborne Early Warning and Control System

7.28

Miscellaneous General Knowledge



B2B	Business to Business
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BAT	British American Tobacco
BC	Before Christ
BHEL	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
BIFR	Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction
BICP	Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices
B2C	Business to Consumer
BIOS	Basic Input Output System
BIS	Bureau of Indian Standards
BOLT	Bombay Stock Exchange On-Line Trading; Build-Operate-Lease-Transfer
BoP	Balance of Payment
BSE	Bombay Stock Exchange
BIMARU	Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
BSF	Border Security Force



CABE	Central Advisory Board on Education
C2C	Consumer to Consumer
CACP	Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices
C&W	Cable and Wireless
CAG	Comptroller and Auditor General of India
CAT	Computed Axial Tomography
CBC	Commonwealth Business Council
CBDT	Central Board of Direct Taxes
CCEA	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
CBM	Confidence Building Measures
CDAC	Centre for the Development of Automatic Computing
CEA	Central Electricity Authority
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CERC	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.29

CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CBI	Central Bureau of Investigation
CMA	Credit Monitoring Arrangement
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
CISC	Complex Instruction-set Computing
CRISIL	Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd.
CNC	Computer Numerical Control
CSO	Central Statistical Organisation
CRM	Customer Relations Management
COPRA	Consumer Protection Act
CMIE	Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COPU	Committee on Public Undertakings
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CSIR	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
CNN	Cable News Network
CRR	Cash Reserve Ratio
CITU	Centre of Indian Trade Unions
CTBT	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty



DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DFIs	Development Financial Institutions
DMRC	Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
DMZ	Demilitarised Zone
DTP	Desktop Publishing
DMAT	Dematerialized Account

7.30

Miscellaneous General Knowledge



E-MAIL	Electronic Mailing
ECG	Electrocardiography
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EEG	Electroencephalography
EIS	Executive Information System
ELISA	Enzyme Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay
EOU	Export Oriented Unit
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
ESMA	Essential Services Maintenance Act
ECGC	Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPABX	Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange
ESP	Extra Sensory Perception



FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCI	Food Corporation of India; Fertilizer Corporation of India
FCRA	Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FII	Foreign Institutional Investors
FRCP	Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians
FM	Frequency Modulation
FMCG	Fast Moving Consumer Goods
FERA	Foreign Exchange Regulation Act
FEMA	Foreign Exchange Management Act
FRCS	Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons
FMCT	Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty
FIR	First Information Report
FOREX	Foreign Exchange
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FTII	Films and Television Institute of India

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.31



GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GAIL	Gas Authority of India Ltd.
GDR	Global Depository Receipt
GIS	Geographical Information System
GMAT	Graduate Management Aptitude Test
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GE	General Electric (USA)
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time
GNP	Gross National Product
GIC	General Insurance Corporation
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRE	Graduate Record Examination
GM	General Motors (USA)
GSI	Geological Survey of India
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
GUI	Graphical User Interface
GATE	Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering
GSTP	Global System of Trade Practices
GSLV	Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle
GTO	Geo-Synchronous Transfer Orbit



HYV	High Yielding Varieties
HUL	Hindustan Unilever Limited
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HANGSENG	Hong Kong Stock Exchange Index
HMV	His Master's Voice; Heavy Motor Vehicle
HDFC	Housing Development Finance Corporation
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
http	hypertext transfer protocol
HUDCO	Housing and Urban Development Corporation
HDI	Human Development Index
HINDALCO	Hindustan Aluminium Company Limited

7.32

Miscellaneous General Knowledge



IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IARI	Indian Agricultural Research Institute
IBM	International Business Machines
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICC	International Cricket Council / International Criminal Court
INA	Indian National Army
ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IDBI	Industrial Development Bank of India
IPC	Indian Penal Code
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IJRY	Integrated Jawahar Rozgar Yojana
IDRA	Industrial Development and Regulation Act
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICBM	Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
ICICI	Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India
INDU	Indian National Defence University
INSAT	Indian National Satellite
IOC	Indian Oil Corporation
IP	Internet Protocol
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IRBM	Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile
IRD	Integrated Rural Development Programme
ISBN	International Standard Book Number
ISI	Indian Standards Institution; Inter Service Intelligence
IFCI	Industrial Finance Corporation of India
ISO	International Standards Organisation
IST	Indian Standard Time
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IVF	Invitro Fertilisation
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organisation

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.33

IMF	International Monetary Fund
IIP	Index of Industrial Production
IDA	International Development Agency
ICRA	Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India
ITC	Indian Tobacco Company
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
INTUC	Indian National Trade Union Congress
IOU	I Owe You
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
IRDA	Insurance Development and Development Authority



LAC	Line of Actual Control
LIBOR	London Inter Bank Offer Rate
LCA	Light Combat Aircraft
L&T	Larsen and Toubro
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LIC	Life Insurance Corporation of India
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LPSC	Liquid Propulsion System Centre



MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MCF	Master Control Facility
M&A	Mergers and Acquisitions
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MF	Mutual Fund
MNC	Multinational Corporation
MODVAT	Modified Value Added Tax
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRTPC	Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission
MSP	Minimum Support Price
MTCR	Missile Technology Control Regime
MUL	Maruti Udyog Limited
MODEM	Modulator / Demodulator

7.34

Miscellaneous General Knowledge



NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NCAER	National Council of Applied Economic Research
NCCF	National Consumers Cooperative Federation
NCFSE	National Curriculum Framework for Secondary Education
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NASDAQ	National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NCL	National Commission on Labour / National Chemical Laboratory
NCRWC	National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution
NDC	National Development Council
NGO	Non-Government Organisation; Non-Gazetted Officer
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
NPC	National Productivity Council
NPA	Non Performing Assets
NASSCOM	National Association of Software and Service Companies
NAFED	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation
NREP	National Rural Employment Programme
NTPC	National Thermal Power Corporation
NCC	National Cadet Corps
NMS	Network Management System
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NAV	Net Asset Value
NSIC	National Small-scale Industries Corporation
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
NWP	National Water Policy



OAPEC	Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OBU	Overseas Banking Unit
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Conference
ONGC	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
OOP	Object Oriented Programme

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.35



PAC	Public Accounts Committee
P&G	Proctor and Gamble Limited
PAN	Permanent Account Number
PAL	Premier Automobiles Limited
PFI	Petroleum Federation of India
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
PIL	Public Interest Litigation
PGA	Professional Golf Association
PIN	Postal Index Number
PM	Post Meridiem; Prime Minister
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PDS	Public Distribution System
PMRY	Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity; Point-to-Point Protocol
PROLOG	Programming Logic
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
PSE	Public Sector Enterprises
PSLV	Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle
PTA	Pilotless Target Aircraft
PTO	Please Turn Over
PAYE	Pay as You Earn
PHDCCI	Punjab, Haryana, Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industries
PCA	Professional Chess Association
Pixel	Picture element
POTA	Prevention of Terrorism Act
POTO	Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance
PS	Post Scriptum
PTI	Press Trust of India
PSU	Public Sector Undertaking



QR	Quantitative Restriction
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7.36

Miscellaneous General Knowledge



R&D	Research and Development
RAM	Random Access Memory
RAW	Research and Analysis Wing
RBO	River Basin Organisation
RIDF	Rural Infrastructure Development Fund
RPM	Revolutions Per Minute
RSS	Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
RAF	Rapid Action Force
REC	Rural Electrification Corporation
RISC	Reduced Instruction-Set Computing
RRBs	Regional Rural Banks



SAIL	Steel Authority of India Limited
SEBs	State Electricity Boards
SAPTA	South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement
SCI	Shipping Corporation of India
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SEA	Satellite Education Authority
SFCs	State Financial Corporations
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India
SENSEX	Sensitivity Index (of Share Price)
SEZ	Special Export Zone
SRTC	State Road Transport Corporations
SSI	Small Scale Industries
SCOPE	Standing Committee of Public Enterprise
SLR	Statutory Liquidity Ratio
SPCA	Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
STC	State Trading Corporation
SUV	Sports Utility Vehicle
STP	Software Technology Park
SLV	Satellite Launch Vehicle
SPIC	Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation
SAI	Sports Authority of India
STD	Subscriber Trunk Dialing; Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.37



TCP	Transfer Call Protocol; Transmission Control Protocol
TELCO	Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company
TIFR	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
TISCO	Tata Iron and Steel Company
TNT	Trinitrotoluene
TQM	Total Quality Management
TCS	Tata Consultancy Services
TRIMS	Trade Related Investment Measures
TRIFED	Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd.
TRIPS	Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights
TADA	Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act
TRYSEM	Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment
TWAS	Third World Academy of Science



UGC	University Grants Commission
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UPSC	Union Public Service Commission
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UFO	Unidentified Flying Objects
UHF	Ultra-high Frequency
UNI	United News of India
USP	Unique Selling Proposition
UPS	Uninterrupted Power Supply
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (At present known as 'United Nations Children's Fund')

7.38

Miscellaneous General Knowledge



VAN	Virtual Area Network
VDIS	Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
VAT	Value Added Tax



WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WWW	World Wide Web
WPI	Wholesale Price Index
WWF	World Wildlife Fund (At present known as Worldwide Fund for Nature)
WWF	World Wrestling Federation
WTDC	World Telecommunication Development Conference
WTO	World Trade Organisation



XML	Extensible Markup Language
XMS	Extended Memory System

Important Facts about World and India

(A) World's Largest, Longest and Highest Man-made Structures

Structure	Name	Location
Longest Rail Line	Trans-Siberian line from Moscow to Nakhodka, 9,438 kilometres long	Russia
Largest Temple (Hindu)	Angkor Vat	Cambodia
Longest Wall	The Great Wall of China	China
Longest Railway Platform	Gorakhpur (1,366.33 m)	Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
Largest Cathedral	Diocese of New York	New York
Longest Railway Bridge	Huey P. Long Bridge	Metairie, Louisiana, US
Busiest Airport	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Georgia, USA
Highest Road Bridge over Water	Royal Gorge	River Arkanas, Colorado
Largest Library	The Library of Congress	Capital Hill, Washington, DC

(B) Important Natural Entities of the World

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.39

Natural Entity	Names
Largest Ocean	Pacific
Largest Gulf	Gulf of Mexico
Largest Island	Greenland (renamed Kalaallit Nunaat)
Largest Bay	Hudson Bay, Northern Canada
Tallest Animal	Giraffe
Largest Bird	North American Ostrich
Largest Animal	Blue Whale
Largest Egg	Ostrich Egg
Smallest Bird	Bee Hummingbird
Smallest River (shortest)	Roe River in Montana
Largest Sea	South China Sea
Largest Delta	Sunderbans
Driest Place	Atacama Desert, Chile
Highest Waterfall	Salto Angel, Venezuela
Largest Desert	The Sahara, North Africa
Hottest Place	Aziza, Libya
Largest Glacier	Siachen, Indo-Pak border
Coldest Place	Vostok Station (Antarctica)

(C) Important Facts of India

National Insignia and Other Important Facts

- National Flag:** It was adopted by Constituent Assembly on July 22 1947. Ratio of width to length is 2 : 3 having three bands of equal width; lowest is green, middle one is white and saffron is the colour at the top. A wheel is at the centre of the flag of navy blue colour having 24 spokes. **Madam Bhikaji Cama was the first to unfurl the tri-colour at an international body.**
- National Anthem:** Composed by **Rabindranath Tagore**, have wordings: Jana Gana Mana..., in 1911. Adopted on January 24, 1950, by the Constituent Assembly of India and takes about **52 seconds** to sing it completely. It was first sung on 27th Dec. 1911 at Calcutta session of Congress.
- National Song: Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, wordings: Vande Mataram ..., taken from 'Anand Math', a novel by him and was adopted on **January 24, 1950.**
- National Flower** is Lotus.
- National Animal** is Tiger.
- National Bird** is Peacock.
- State Emblem of India**

The state emblem is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. In the original, there are four lions, standing back to back, mounted on an abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening wheels over a bell-shaped lotus. Carved out of a single block of polished sandstone, the Capital is crowned by the Wheel of the Law (Dharma Chakra).

In the state emblem, adopted by the Government of India on 26 January 1950, only three lions are visible, the fourth being hidden from view. The wheel appears in relief in the centre of the abacus with a bull on right and a horse on left and the outlines of other wheels on extreme right and left. The bell-shaped lotus has been omitted. **The words Satyameva Jayate from Mundaka Upanishad**, meaning 'Truth Alone Triumphs', are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script.

7.40

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

(D) Important Boundaries and Lines of the World

1. **Durand Line:** It is the line which separates India and Afghanistan.
2. **MacMahon Line:** It demarcates the boundaries of China and India.
3. **Radcliffe Line:** It demarcates the boundary between India and Pakistan.
4. **38th Parallel:** It is the parallel separating North Korea and South Korea.
5. **49th Parallel:** It is the boundary between USA and Canada.
6. **Siegfried Line:** It is the line between Germany and France, from German side.
7. **Maginot Line:** It is the line between Germany and France from French side.
8. **17th parallel:** It is the parallel (latitude) which separated north Vietnam from south Vietnam.

(E) States of India and Their Capitals

States	Capitals	States	Capitals
1. Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad /Amaravati	15. Manipur	Imphal
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	16. Meghalaya	Shillong
3. Assam	Dispur	17. Mizoram	Aizawl
4. Bihar	Patna	18. Nagaland	Kohima
5. Chhatisgarh	Raipur	19. Orissa	Bhubaneswar
6. Goa	Panaji	20. Punjab	Chandigarh
7. Gujarat	Gandhinagar	21. Rajasthan	Jaipur
8. Haryana	Chandigarh	22. Sikkim	Gangtok
9. Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	23. Tamil Nadu	Chennai
10. Jharkhand	Ranchi	24. Telangana	Hyderabad
11. Karnataka	Bangalore	25. Tripura	Agartala
12. Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	26. Uttarakhand	Dehra Dun
13. Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	27. Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
14. Maharashtra	Mumbai	28. West Bengal	Kolkata

National Capital Territory	Capital
Delhi	Delhi

Union Territories	Capitals
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
2. Chandigarh	Chandigarh
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu (Come into effect on 26 January 2020)	Daman
4. Lakshadweep	Kavaratti
5. Puducherry	Puducherry
6. Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar (Summer Capital) Jammu (Winter Capital)
7. Ladakh	Leh, Kargil

***Please know that there are 28 States and 8 Union Territories in India. Delhi is counted as a Union territory.**

Islands: India possesses two groups of Islands, i.e. (i) Lakshadweep, (ii) Andaman & Nicobar group.

- (i) **Lakshadweep:** It is a collection of 27 islands present in the Arabian Sea lying about 300 kilometres west of Kerala.

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.41

(ii) **Andaman & Nicobar group:** Nicobar consists of 19 small islands and Andaman has a collection of 204 small islands.

(iii) **Indira point** is the Southmost extremity of India.

(F) Important Indian Towns and Associated Industries

Town	Industry	Town	Industry
Aligarh	Locks	Mysore	Silk
Ankleshwar	Oil	Nangal	Fertilizers
Bhilai	Steel plant	Nepanagar	Newsprint
Chittaranjan	Locomotive	Perambur	Railway coach factory
Digboi	Oil	Pimpri	Penicillin factory
Durgapur	Steel plant	Raniganj	Coal mining
Jhamshepur	Steel	Rourkela	Steel plant
Jharia	Coal	Sindri	Fertilizers
Katni	Cement	Surat	Textiles
Khetri	Copper	Titagarh	Paper
Ludhiana	Hosiery, cycles, sewing machines	Vishakhapatnam	Ship-building

(G) Important Indian Cities on River Banks

City	River	City	River
Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	Ludhiana	Sutlej
Ayodhya	Godavari	Nashik	Godavari
Delhi	Yamuna	Prithvi nagar	Jhelum
Guwahati	Brahmaputra	Tiruchirappalli	Cauvery
Howrah	Hugli	Ujjain	Shipra
Hyderabad	Musa	Varanasi	Ganges
Kota	Chambal	Vijayawada	Krishna
Lucknow	Gomti		

(H) Important Indian Sites and Monuments and Their Locations

Site/Monument	Location	Site/Monument	Location
Ajanta Caves	Aurangabad	Jantar Mantar	Delhi
Anand Bhawan	Allahabad	Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu
Buland Darwaza	Fatehpur Sikri near Agra	Khajuraho	Bhopal
Char Minar	Hyderabad	Kranti Maidan	Mumbai
Dilwara Temples	Mount Abu	Minakshi Temple	Madurai
Elephanta Caves	Mumbai	Red Fort	Delhi
Ellora Temples	Aurangabad	Sabarmati	Ahmedabad
Gol Gumbaz	Bijapur	Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh
Golden Temple	Amritsar	Sarnath	Varanasi
Gomateshwara Statue	Mysore	Shantiniketan	Birbhum
Jallianwala Bagh	Amritsar	Victoria Memorial	Kolkata
Jama Masjid	Delhi		

7.42

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

(I) Major Indian Crops and Their Leading Producers

Name of the Crop	Main Proucer
Cashew nuts	Tamil Nadu, Kerala
Cloves	Kerala
Coconut	Tamil Nadu, Kerala
Coffee	Karnataka, Kerala
Cotton	Gujarat, Maharashtra
Groundnut	Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
Jute	Bihar, W. Bengal, Odisha
Mustard	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan
Rice	West Bengal, Tamil Nadu
Rubber	Kerala, Karnataka
Saffron	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
Silk	Karnataka, Kerala
Sugar cane	Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra
Tea	Assam, West Bengal, Kerala
Tobacco	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh
Wheat	U.P., Punjab, Haryana

(J) Minerals and Their States of Abundance

Minerals	States
Bauxite	Oisna is the largest producer of bauxite in the country and contributes about one-third of the total production. Jharkhand is the second largest producer of bauxite and produces about 22% of India's total.
Coal	Bihar, West Bengal (Raniganj and Jharia)
Copper	Major copper ore deposits are located in Singhbhum district (Jharkhand), Balghat district (Madhya Pradesh) and Jhunjhunu and Alwar districts (Rajasthan).
Diamond	Madhya Pradesh (Panna)
Iron	Odisha (Mayurbhanj, Bonai, Keonjhar)
Lignite	Tamil Nadu (Neyveli fields)
Limestone	Madhya Pradesh
Manganese	Odisha
Mica	India has monopoly in the production of mica, producing about 60% of the world's total production. About 95% of India's mica is distributed in just three states of Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.43

(K) Important River-based Projects

Name of the project	River
Bhakra Nangal Project	Sutlej
Chambal Project	Chambal
Damodar Valley Project	Damodar
Farakka Project	Bhagirathi, Ganga
Gandak River Project	Gandak
Hirakud Dam Project	Mahanadi
Idukki Project	Periyar
Kosi Project	Kosi
Koyna Project	Koyna
Mayurakshi Project	Murali
Nagarjunasagar Project	Krishna
Rihand Scheme	Rihand
Tawa Project	Tawa
Tehri Dam Project	Bhilangana, Bhagirathi
Tungabhadra Project	Tungabhadra
Ukai Project	Tapti

(L) Important Dances of India

Name of the dance	State which it belongs to
Bihu	Assam
Bidesia	Bihar
Bharatanatyam	South India (Tamil Nadu)
Bhangra, Gidda	Punjab
Chiraw	Mizoram
Jatra, Chau	West Bengal
Jhulan leela, Jhumar or Ghumar	Rajasthan
Kathak	North India (Uttar Pradesh)
Kuchipudi, Kottam	Andhra Pradesh
Lota, Pandavani	Madhya Pradesh
Mohiniattam, Kathakali, Theyyam	Kerala
Manipuri, Maharasa	Manipur
Nautanki	Uttar Pradesh
Odissi	Odisha
Bhavai	Gujarat
Tamasha, Lavani	Maharashtra
Yakshagana	Karnataka
Kathakali	Kerala

7.44

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

(M) Important Indian Tribes and Their Habitats

Name of the tribe	Habitat
Abors	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
Baiga	Madhya Pradesh
Bhils	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
Bhotias	Uttar Pradesh
Garos	Meghalaya
Gonds	Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh
Khonds	Odisha
Khasis	Assam, Meghalaya
Kuki	Manipur
Mina	Rajasthan
Mundas	Jharkhand
Murias	Chhattishgarh
Santhals	West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh.
Todas (it is a polyandrous tribe)	Tamil Nadu
Warlis	Maharashtra

Important Demographic Facts of India

Census 2011

Following are few selected, important demographic facts, that you should always keep on your finger tips. You can expect atleast one question from them.

The 15th Indian National census was conducted in two phases, house listing and population enumeration. House listing phase began on April 1, 2010 to collect of information on all buildings. Information for National Population Register was also collected in the first phase, which will be used to issue a 12-digit unique identification number (Aadhar) to all registered Indians by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIAI). The second phase of population enumeration was conducted between 9 to 28 February 2011. Census has been conducted in India since 1872. In Census - 2011 biometric information was collected for the first time. Shri C. Chandramouli is the Registrar General and commissioner of 2011 indian census.

1. Absolute population of India - 121.02 crores. It comprises 62.37 crores males and 58.65 crores females.
2. Population growth during the decade remained 17.64 percent.
 - ⇒ Total absolute increase in population during the decade is 18.15 crores.
 - ⇒ Sex ratio - 940 females per 1000 males. Child sex ratio for females is 914 per 1000 males.
3. Highest sex ratio - Kerala
4. Lowest sex ratio - Haryana
5. Most populous state - Uttar Pradesh
6. Least populous state - Sikkim
7. Most populous union territory - Delhi
8. Least populous union territory - Lakshadweep
9. Population density (people living in one square km) of India - 382.
10. Highest population density - Bihar

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.45

11. Lowest population density - Arunachal Pradesh
12. Literacy rate of India - 74.04% (males: 82.14%, female: 65.46%). Literacy rate of India has gone up to 74.04 percent from previous figure of 64.83 percent.
13. States with highest literacy - Kerala (93.9%)
14. State with lowest literacy - Bihar (63.82%)
15. Urbanization (% of population living in urban areas) - 27.8% (India)
16. Most urbanised state (1991 census) - Mizoram
17. Speakers of language (in descending order) - Hindi > Bengali > Telugu > Marathi > Tamil > Urdu
18. Census commissioner of India for the census 2011 is Dr. C. Chandramouli

Different UN Agencies

	Name of Agency	Abbreviation	Date of Establishment	Headquarter	Purpose	Heads
1.	International Labour Organization	ILO	1919	Geneva	To promote social justice, improve conditions and living standard of workers and promote economic stability	Guy Ryder
2.	International Atomic Energy Agency	IAEA	1957	Vienna	To promote peaceful uses of atomic energy	Rafael Mariano Grossi
3.	Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	1945	Rome	To raise nutritional levels, living standards, production and distribution of food and agricultural products, improving living conditions of rural population	Dr QU Dongyu
4.	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNESCO	1946	Paris	To promote collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to promote justice, human rights and freedom	Audrey Azoulay (Director general)
5.	World Health Organization	WHO	1948	Geneva	Attainment of the highest possible level of health by all people	Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
6.	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	IBRD	1945	Washington	Development of economies of members by facilitating investment of capital and foreign investment, through provision of loans	David Malpass
7.	World Meteorological Organization	WMO	1950	Geneva	To promote international exchange of weather reports and other weather related services	Petteri Taalas (Head)
8.	International Maritime Organization	IMO	1958	London	Promotes cooperation on technical matters of maritime safety, navigation and encourages anti-pollution measures	Kitack Lim (Head)
9.	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	UNICEF	1946	New York	Children's welfare all over the world	Henrietta H. Fore (Ex.Directors)
10.	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (from 1994 it is known as WTO)	WTO	1948 - 1994	Geneva	Treaty setting rules for world trade, to reduce tariffs and other barriers to international trade	Rober Azevedo
11.	United Nations Development Programme	UNDP	1965	New York	Help developing countries increase the wealth producing capabilities and resources	Achim Steiner (Chairperson)

7.46

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

13.	United Nations Fund for Population Activities	UNFPA	1967	New York	Promotes Population related programmes	Natalia Kanem
14.	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	1950	Geneva	Provides international protection to refugees	Filippo Grandi
15.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	UNIDO	1967	Vienna	Extends assistance to developing countries for development and modernisation of industries	Li Yong
16.	International Finance corporation	IFC	1955	Washington	Promote economic development by encouraging private enterprise in its member countries	Philippe Le Houerou (CEO)
17.	International Monetary Fund	IMF	1945	Washington	Promotes international monetary co-operation and expansion of international trade	Kristalina Georgieva
18.	International Civil Aviation	ICAO	1947	Montreal	Promotes safety of international aviation and establishes international standards and regulations	Dr. Fang Liu
19.	Universal Postal Union	UPU	1947	Berne	Improves various postal services and promotes international collaboration	Bishar Abdirahenan Hussein
20.	International Telecommunication Union	ITU	1947	Geneva	Sets international regulations for radio, telegraph, telephone and space radio communications	Houlin Zhao
21.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	UNCTAD	1964	Geneva	Promotes international trade with a view to accelerate economic growth of developing countries	Mukhisa Kituyi (Secretary-General)
22.	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	UNITAR	1963	New York	Provides high priority training and of projects to help facilitate the UN resolution objectives of world peace and security, and of economic and social progress	Nikhil Seth (Executive Director)
23.	United Nations Relief and Work for Palestine Refugees in the North East	UNRWA	1949	New York	Provides food, health services, education vocational training for those displaced in the Arab-Israeli war	Pierre Krahenbuhl (Commissioner Gen)
24.	International Olympic Committee	IOC	1894	Loussanne Switzerland	Responsible for Organizing Modern Summer & Winter Olympic Games	Thomas Bach

Anti-Poverty And Employment Generation Programs

A list of programmes by Narendra Modi Government:

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

It is a national mission for financial inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely Banking Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, and Pension in an affordable manner. This financial inclusion campaign was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28 August 2014. He had announced this scheme on his first Independence Day speech on 15 August 2014. Run by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, on the inauguration day, 1.5 Crore (15 million) bank accounts were opened under this scheme. Guinness World Records recognises the achievements made under PMJDY, Guinness World Records Certificate says "The most bank accounts opened in 1 week as a part of financial inclusion campaign is 18,096,130 and was achieved by Banks in India from 23 to 29 August 2014". By 7 October 2015, 18.70 crore accounts were opened, with around Rs. 25146.97 crore (US\$3.8 billion) were deposited under the scheme.

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.47

Digital India

Digital India is an initiative by the Government of India to ensure that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity. It was launched on July 1, 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. Digital India has three core components. These include: The creation of digital infrastructure, delivering services digitally and digital literacy. The Government plans to complete this project in five years. That is, by 2019, the Digital India project is expected to be fully functional.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched formally on October 2, 2014, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The objective is to make India a clean India by 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The plan is to provide toilet and sanitation facilities in all rural and remote areas, to create public awareness of cleanliness, to clean roads, streets, encroachments and make India one of the cleanest countries of the world.

Make in India

Make in India is an initiative of the Government of India to encourage multinational, as well as domestic companies to manufacture their products in India. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 September 2014. India would emerge, after initiation of the programme in 2015, as the top destination globally for foreign direct investment, surpassing the People's Republic of China as well as the United States. The Make in India campaign is completely under the Central Government, in which the Government has identified 25 major sectors which have the potential of becoming a global leader.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana is a rural development programme broadly focusing upon the development in the villages which includes social development, cultural development and spread motivation among the people on social mobilization of the village community. The programme was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on the birth anniversary of Jayaprakash Narayan on 11 October 2014. According to this yojana, each MP will take the responsibility of developing three villages by 2019. The idea is to make India's villages to be fully developed with physical and institutional infrastructure. There are certain guidelines for this scheme, which has been formulated by the Department of Rural Development. The Prime Minister released the guidelines on October 11, 2014 and requested all MPs to develop one model village by year 2016 in their constituency and two more by 2019.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

Atal Pension Yojana is a government-backed pension scheme in India targeted at the unorganized sector. It was originally mentioned in the 2015 Budget speech by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in February 2015. It was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 May in Kolkata. As of May 2015, only 11% of India's population has any kind of pension scheme, this scheme aims to increase the number. In Atal Pension Yojana, for every contribution made to the pension fund, the government will contribute an equal amount to his/her fund. Depending on the contribution made between 18 and 40, at the age of 60 a sum of Rs. 1000 (US\$15), Rs. 2000 (US\$30), Rs. 3000 (US\$45), Rs. 4000 (US\$60), or Rs. 5000 (US\$75) will be paid monthly.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana is a government-backed Life insurance scheme in India. It was originally mentioned in the 2015 Budget speech by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in February 2015. It was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 May in Kolkata. As of May 2015, only 20% of India's population has any kind of insurance, this scheme aims to increase the number. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana is available to people between 18 and 50 years of age with bank accounts. It has an annual premium of Rs. 330 (US\$5.00) excluding service tax, which is above 14% of the premium. The amount will be automatically debited from the account. In case of death due to any cause, the payment to the nominee will be 2 lakh (US\$3,000). This scheme will be linked to the bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana scheme. Most of these account had zero balance initially. The government aims to reduce the number of such zero balance accounts by using this and related schemes.

7.48

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is a government-backed accident insurance scheme in India. It was originally mentioned in the 2015 Budget speech by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in February 2015. It was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 May in Kolkata. As of May 2015, only 20% of India's population has any kind of insurance, this scheme aims to increase the number. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is available to people between 18 and 70 years of age with bank accounts. It has an annual premium of 12 (18¢ US) excluding service tax, which is about 14% of the premium. The amount will be automatically debited from the account. In case of accidental death or full disability, the payment to the nominee will be 2 lakh (US\$3,000) and in case of partial disability 1 lakh (US\$1,500). Full disability has been defined as loss of use in eyes, hands or feet. Partial disability has been defined as loss of use in one eye, hand or foot.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme

It is a Government of India scheme that aims to generate awareness and improving the efficiency of welfare services meant for women. The scheme was initiated with an initial corpus of Rs 100 crore. Prime Minister Modi launched the programme on January 22, 2015 from Panipat, Haryana. This is being implemented through a national campaign and focussed multi sectoral action in 100 selected districts low in CSR, covering all States and UTs. This is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. The objectives of this initiative are: Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination, ensuring survival & protection of the girl child and ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

Sukanya Samridhi Account (literally Girl Child Prosperity Account) is a Government of India backed saving scheme targeted at the parents of girl children. The scheme encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their female child. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 January 2015 as a part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign. The scheme currently provides an interest rate of 9.2% and tax benefits. The account can be opened at any India Post office or a branch of some authorised commercial banks.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana

PMKSY is central scheme that aims at providing irrigation facilities to every village in the country by converging ongoing irrigation schemes implemented by various ministries. It will have an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore over a period of five years (2015-16 to 2019-20). The allocation for the current financial year is Rs. 5300 crore. The major objective of the PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko pani), improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop), enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices by exploring the feasibility of reusing treated municipal based water for peri-urban agriculture and attract greater private investment in precision irrigation system.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

This will be the flagship scheme for skill training of youth to be implemented by the new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The scheme will cover 24 lakh persons. Skill training would be done based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards. Under the scheme, a monetary reward is given to trainees on assessment and certification by third party assessment bodies. The average monetary reward would be around Rs. 8000 per trainee.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation

The initiative was announced by PM Narendra Modi on 25 June 2015, and is said to be aiming to transform 500 cities and towns into efficient urban living spaces, with special focus on a healthy and green environment for children. It was also reported that Cabinet has approved Rs 50,000 crore for this mission which is to be spent over the next five years. The purpose of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is to (i) ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection; (ii) increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces (parks); and (iii) reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport (e.g. walking and cycling).

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.49

Smart Cities Project

The government of India under Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has a vision of developing 100 smart cities as satellite towns of larger cities and by modernizing the existing mid-sized cities. The government plans to identify 20 smart cities in 2015, 40 in 2016 and another 40 in 2017. The 100 potential smart cities nominated by all the States and UTs based on Stage1 criteria will prepare Smart City Plans which will be rigorously evaluated in the Stage2 of the competition for prioritizing cities for financing. In the first round of this stage, 20 top scorers will be chosen for financing during this financial year. The remaining would be asked to make up the deficiencies identified by the Apex Committee in the Ministry of Urban Development for participation in the next two rounds of competition. 40 cities each will be selected for financing during the next rounds of competition.

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGRY)

- Started on April 1, 1999. It has replaced the following programs.
 - **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):** Started in 1978-79.
 - **Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) :** Started in 1978-79.
 - **Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) :** Started in 1997.
 - **Million Wells Scheme (MWS):** Started in 1989.
 - **Supply of Improved Tool-kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) :** Started in 1992.
- The Yojana takes into account all the strengths and weaknesses of the earlier self-employment programs.
- It aims at establishing a large number of micro-enterprises in the rural areas.
- Every assisted family will be brought above the poverty line. It is proposed to cover 30% of the rural poor in each block.
- To target at least 50% Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 40% Women and 3% disabled.
- Shared 75 : 25 by Centre and States

Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)

- It was introduced in 2000-01 with the objective of focusing on village level development in five critical areas, i.e., primary health, primary education, housing, rural roads and drinking water and nutrition with the overall objective of improving the quality of life of people in rural areas. Rural electrification was added as an additional component from 2001-02.
- It has the following components.
 1. **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**
 - It was launched on Dec 25, 2000 with the objective of providing road connectivity through good all weather roads to all rural habitations with a population of more than 1000 persons by the year 2003 and those with a population of more than 500 persons by the year 2007.
 2. **Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (Gramin Awas)**
 - Launched on Apr 1, 2000. Based on the pattern of Indira Awas Yojana, the scheme is being implemented in the rural areas throughout the country with the objective of sustainable habitat development.
 3. **Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (Rural Drinking Water Project)**

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

- It was launched on Feb 2, 2006. The on-going programs of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) were subsumed within the NREGS in the 200 districts identified in the initial stage. All the districts in the country are covered under the scheme now. The features of the scheme are:
 - (a) State Government to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
 - (b) Until such time as a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government, the minimum wage for agricultural laborers shall be applicable for the scheme.

7.50

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

- (c) An applicant not provided employment within fifteen days, to be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance as specified by the State Government subject to its economic capacity, provided such rate is not less than quarter of the wage rate for the first thirty days during the financial year and not less than a half of the wage rate for the remaining period of the financial year.

Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

- It was started on September. 25, 2001, with the mergence of the **Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)** and the **Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana (JGSY)**. Earlier **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana**, which started in 1989, was merged with Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana.
- This scheme has been subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Bharat Nirman Yojana

- Accepting the policy 'a step towards village', Union Government launched a new scheme, named '**Bharat Nirman Yojana**' on Dec 16, 2005. This scheme aims at developing rural infrastructure. The duration of implementing this scheme has been determined for four years with the expected expenditure of Rs. 1,74,000 crore.

The major six sectors and their targets for next four years are

- Irrigation** : To ensure irrigation for additional one crore hectare of land by 2009.
- Roads** : To link all villages of 1,000 population with roads and also to link all ST and hilly villages upto 500 population with roads.
- Housing** : Construction of 60 lakh additional houses for the poor.
- Water Supply** : To ensure drinking water to all remaining 74,000 villages.
- Electrification** : To supply electricity to all remaining 25,000 villages and to provide electricity connection to 2.3 crore houses.
- Rural Communication** : To provide telephone facility to all remaining 66,822 villages.

Swarnajayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

- The SJSRY came into operation in Dec 1997, through a restructuring and streamlining of the earlier urban poverty alleviation programs, the **Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY)**, the **Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP)** and the Prime Minister's **Integrated Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme (PMIUPEP)**.
- It seeks to provide employment to the urban employed or underemployed living below poverty line and educate up to IX standard through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment.
- It is funded by the Centre and States on 75 : 25 bases.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- Launched on Dec 25, 2000, the scheme aims at providing food security to poor families.
- The Scheme contemplates identification of 10 million poorest of the poor families and providing them with 35 kg of food grains per family per month at a low price of Rs. 2 per kg of wheat and Rs. 3 per kg for rice.

Annapurna Yojana

- Inaugurated on Mar 19, 1999.
- Initially the scheme provided 10 kg food grains to senior citizens who were eligible for old age pension but could not get it due to one reason or the other. Later on, it was extended to cover those people also who get old age pensions.
- Food grains are provided to the beneficiaries at subsidized rates of Rs. 2 per kg of wheat and Rs. 3 per kg of rice.

Miscellaneous General Knowledge

7.51

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

- The Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in 2001. The goals of SSA are as follows: (i) All 6-14 age children in school/Education Guarantee Scheme Centre/bridge course by 2003, (ii) All 6-14 age children complete five year primary education by 2007; (iii) All 6-14 age children complete eight years of schooling by 2010; (iv) Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life; (v) Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010; and (vi) Universal retention by 2010.
- The assistance under the program of SSA was on a 85:15 sharing arrangement during the Ninth Plan, 75:25 sharing arrangement during the Tenth Plan, and 50:50 sharing thereafter between the Central Government and State Government.
- SSA addresses the needs of 194 million children in the age group of 6-14 years. Under the scheme, 9.72 lakh existing primary and upper primary schools and 36.95 lakh existing teachers have been covered.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme for School Children

- The National Program of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NPNSPE), popularly known as the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme, was formally launched on Aug 15, 1995. The objective of the program is to give a boost to universalization of primary education by increasing enrolment, attendance and retention, and also improving nutritional status of children in primary classes.
- Under the MDM scheme, cooked mid-day meal with a nutritional content of 450 calories and 12 grams protein is served to children studying at primary level.
- About 12 crore children studying in over 9.50 lakh schools are presently covered under the scheme. In order to improve the quality of meal, the scheme was last revised in June, 2006. The cooking cost norm has been fixed at Rs. 2 per child per school day with Rs. 1.00 as central assistance for North East States and Rs. 1.50 for other States and UTs. Assistance to State has been provided at the rate of Rs 5,000 per school to procure/repair kitchen devices.