

REFERENCE MATERIAL (GENERAL KNOWLEDGE) FOR CLASS
6th,7th AND 8th

PLEASE NOTE-This material is only for reference. Students are encouraged to also read from other sources.

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NOTE- Source of the above mentioned topics are added in the footer of the reference material.

¹THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

This book is one of 1,000 photolithographic reproductions of the Constitution of the Republic of India, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, after being approved by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. The original of this elaborate edition took nearly five years to produce. It is signed by the framers of the constitution, most of whom are regarded as the founders of the Republic of India. The original of the book is kept in a special helium-filled case in the Library of the Parliament of India. The illustrations represent styles from the different civilizations of the subcontinent, ranging from the prehistoric Mohenjodaro, in the Indus Valley, to the present. The calligraphy in the book was done by Prem Behari Narain Raizda. It was illuminated by Nandalal Bose and other artists, published by Dehradun, and photolithography at the Survey of India Offices, World Digital Library.

²THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA-

Parliament is the supreme legislative body of India. The Parliament building was designed by the British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker in 1912-1913 as part of their wider mandate to construct a new administrative capital city for India. Construction of the Parliament House began in 1921 and it was completed in 1927.

The Indian Parliament comprises the President and the two Houses - Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and Lok Sabha (House of the People).

The **Rajya Sabha** should consist of not more than 250 members - 238 members representing the States and Union Territories, and 12 members nominated by the President. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. The senior most minister, who is a member of Rajya Sabha, is appointed by the Prime Minister as Leader of the House.

The **Lok Sabha** is composed of representatives of people chosen by direct election on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage. Maximum strength of the House is 552 members - 530 members to represent the States, 20 members to represent the Union Territories, and 2 members to be nominated by the President from the Anglo-Indian Community. At present, the strength of the House is 543. The term of the Lok Sabha, unless dissolved, is five years from the date appointed for its first meeting. However, while a proclamation of emergency is in operation, this period may be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case, beyond a period of six months after the proclamation has ceased to operate.

In India, the Parliament conducts three sessions each year:

- Budget session: January/February to May
- Monsoon session: July to August/September
- Winter session: November to December
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¹ <https://surveyofindia.gov.in/documents/the-constitution-of-india.pdf>

² <https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/indian-parliament/lok-sabha>

Preamble-<https://secure.mygov.in/read-the-preamble-india/>

³History of Indian National Anthem-

The National Anthem of India is entitled 'Jana Gana Mana'. The song was originally composed in Bengali by India's first Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore on December 11, 1911. The parent song, 'Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata' is a Brahma hymn which has five verses and only the first verse has been adopted as National Anthem. If put forward succinctly, the National Anthem conveys the spirit of pluralism or in more popular terms the concept of '**Unity in Diversity**', which lies at the core of India's cultural heritage. It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who coined the phrase, "unity in diversity" to describe the country. The first stanza of the song Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India as the National Anthem on **24 January 1950**. "Jana Gana Mana" was translated by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore from Bengali to English in February 1919 at Madanapalle in the District of Chittoor.

A formal rendition of the national anthem takes **approximately 52 seconds**.

⁴State Emblem

The State Emblem is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath. In the original, there are four lions, mounted back to back on a circular abacus, which itself rests on a bell-shaped lotus. The frieze of the abacus has sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion, separated by intervening **Dharma Chakras**.

The profile of the Lion Capital, showing three lions mounted on the abacus with a Dharma Chakra in the centre, a bull on the right and a galloping horse on the left, and outlines of Dharma Chakras on the extreme right and left, was adopted as the State Emblem of India on January 26, 1950. The bell-shaped lotus was omitted. The motto Satyameva Jayate, which means 'Truth Alone Triumphs', written in Devanagari script below the profile of the Lion Capital, is part of the State Emblem of India.

National Song

The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom. The first political occasion when it was sung was at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

³ -<https://ekbharat.gov.in> >

⁴ -<https://knowindia.india.gov.in/national-identity-elements/state-emblem.php#:~:text=The%20State%20Emblem%20is%20an,on%20a%20bell%2Dshaped%20lotus>

SAMPLE QUESTIONS-

1. Who was the first speaker of the Lok Sabha?

A. Smt.Meira Kumar

B. Hukum Singh

C. M. A. Ayyangar

D. G. V. Mavlankar

2. What does the given symbol signify ?



A.The State Emblem

B. Reserve Bank of India

C. Indian Army

D. Income Tax Department

