



Indian National Symbols - Quick Revision Sheet

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Study Tip: National Symbols GK questions appear in almost every competitive exam. Focus on the Anthem vs Song distinction, scientific names, and the National Sport myth - these are the most commonly asked and most commonly confused facts.

Core Constitutional Symbols

Symbol	Category	Key Exam Fact
National Flag	CORE	Tiranga. Ratio 2:3. Ashoka Chakra has 24 navy-blue spokes. Material: khadi only. Designed by Pingali Venkayya. Adopted July 22, 1947 (before Independence Day).
Colour Order	CORE	Top to bottom: Saffron (courage/sacrifice), White (peace/truth), Green (faith/prosperity).
National Emblem	CORE	Lion Capital of Ashoka, Sarnath. Adopted January 26, 1950. Three lions visible, fourth hidden behind.
National Motto	CORE	"Satyameva Jayate" - from the Mundaka Upanishad (Atharva Veda), written in Devanagari script.
National Anthem	CORE	Jana Gana Mana, by Rabindranath Tagore. Adopted January 24, 1950. Plays in ~52 seconds (short version ~20 sec).
National Song	CORE	Vande Mataram, by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay. From novel Anandamath (1882). Given equal honour - but NOT the anthem.

Flora & Fauna Symbols

Symbol	Category	Key Exam Fact
National Animal	FAUNA	Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>). Declared 1973 with Project Tiger. Replaced the Lion as national animal.
National Bird	FAUNA	Indian Peacock (<i>Pavo cristatus</i>). Declared 1963.
National Aquatic Animal	FAUNA	Gangetic River Dolphin (<i>Platanista gangetica</i>).
National Reptile	FAUNA	King Cobra (<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>).
National Heritage Animal	FAUNA	Indian Elephant (<i>Elephas maximus indicus</i>). Declared 2010.
National Flower	FLORA	Lotus (<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>).
National Fruit	FLORA	Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>).
National Tree	FLORA	Indian Banyan (<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>) - not to be confused with Peepal (<i>Ficus religiosa</i>).

Geography, Official & Legal Symbols

Symbol	Category	Key Exam Fact
National River	GEOGRAPHY	Ganga - declared National River on November 4, 2008.
National Calendar	OFFICIAL	Saka Calendar - adopted March 22, 1957. Chaitra is the first month.
National Currency Symbol	OFFICIAL	Rupee symbol (Rs.) - designed by D. Udaya Kumar, adopted July 15, 2010.
National Sport	MYTH BUSTER	None officially declared. Field hockey is a popular misconception, not an official designation.
Legal Protection	LEGAL	Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 - up to 3 years imprisonment for disrespecting the flag, anthem, or Constitution.

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