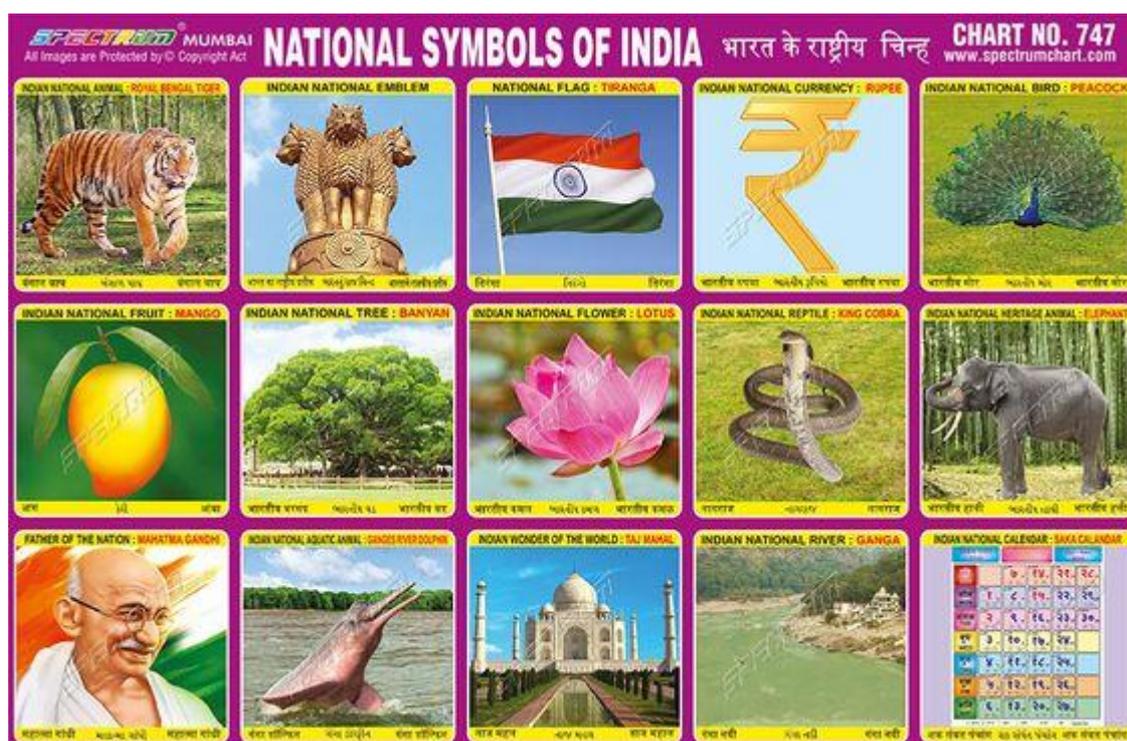


NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF INDIA

The national symbols of India represent the culture and nature of India's National Identity. They infuse a sense of pride and patriotism in every Indian's heart. They were picked up at various times. Below is the list of National Symbols of Incredible India that one should be proud of.

S. No.	Title	National Symbols
1	National Flag	: Tiranga
2	National Emblem	: National Emblem of India
3	National Currency	: Indian Rupees
4	National Calendar	: Saka Calendar
5	Oath of Allegiance	: National Pledge
6	National River	: Ganga
7	National Heritage Animal	: Indian Elephant
8	National Animal	: Royal Bengal Tiger
9	National Bird	: Indian Peacock
10	National Tree	: Indian Banyan
11	National Song	: Vande Mataram
12	National Anthem	: Jana Gana Mana
13	National Aquatic Animal	: Ganges River Dolphin
14	National Vegetable	: Pumpkin
15	National Fruit	: Mango
16	National Flower	: Lotus



- 1. National Flag of India:** The Hindi word "Tiranga" which translates to "containing three colors," is used to describe the national flag of India. This multicoloured flag represents India's freedom and sovereignty and features a wheel of law in the centre.



- 2. National Emblem (State Emblem of India):** The national emblem of India is adopted from Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath. Its motto is Satyameva Jayate; ("Truth Alone Triumphs). It features four Asiatic 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. The National Emblem symbolizes power, courage, and confidence and at the bottom are a horse and a bull with beautiful wheel Dharma chakra at centre.



- 3. National Currency of India:** The national currency of India is the rupee, or INR. Currency circulation is monitored by the Reserve Bank of India. The Indian rupee was created by Udayakumar Dharmalingam.



- 4. National Calendar (Saka Calendar):** Saka Calendar was introduced by the Calendar Committee in 1957. The usage of the Saka Calendar was officially started at 1 Chaitra 1879 Saka Era, or 22 March 1957.
- 5. Oath of Allegiance (National Pledge):** The National Pledge is an oath of allegiance to the Republic Of India. It is commonly recited by Indians in unison at public events, especially in schools, and during the Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations. The pledge was originally composed in Telugu language by writer Pydimarri Venkata Subba Rao in 1962. It was first read out in a school in Visakhapatnam in 1963 and was subsequently translated into various regional languages.
- 6. National River (Ganga River):** The Ganges or the Ganga is the national river of India. It originates in the snowfields of the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas as the **Bhagirathi River**. According to the Hindus, this is the most sacred river on the earth. Interestingly, the Ganga is also the longest river in India covering 2,510 km of mountains, plains and valleys. The major Indian cities through which it passes through are Varanasi, Allahabad and Haridwar.
- 7. National Heritage Animal (Indian Elephant):** The Indian Elephant has been declared a National Heritage Animal of India, native to mainland Asia. The Indian elephant has been listed as endangered and threatened by habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation.



- 8. National Animal (Royal Bengal Tiger):** Royal Bengal Tiger is the national animal of India and ranks among the biggest cats in the world. It was adopted as the national animal of India in April 1973 due to the dwindling population of the tigers. Prior to the tiger the national animal of India was the Lion.



9. National Bird (Peacock): The Indian peacock (*Pavo cristatus*) is the national bird of India. A bird indigenous to the subcontinent, the peacock represents the unity of vivid colors and finds references in Indian culture. The Government of India declared the Peacock as the national bird of India on February 1, 1963. It is found in the drier lowland areas and is a resident breeder across the Indian subcontinent.



10. National Tree (Banyan Tree): The national tree of India is the Banyan tree, designated formally as *Ficus benghalensis*. The tree is often symbol of the fabled 'Kalpa Vriksha' or the 'Tree of Wish Fullfillment' as it is associated with longevity and has important medicinal properties. The very size and life span of the banyan tree makes it a habitat for a large number of creatures.



- 11. National Song (Vande Matram):** The song of India is Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji. On January 24, 1950, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad came up with a statement in the Constituent Assembly, "the song Vande Mataram, which has played a historic part in the struggle for Indian freedom, shall be honored equally with Jana Gana Mana and shall have equal status with it." The first political occasion when Vande Matram was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. The song was a part of Bankimchandra's most famous novel Anand Math (1882).
- 12. National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana):** The National Anthem of India Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on 24 January 1950. It was first sung on 27 December 1911 at the then Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. The complete song consists of five stanzas. The first stanza contains the full version of the National Anthem.
- 13. National Aquatic Animal (Ganges River Dolphin):** The Ganges River Dolphin or also called 'Susu,' is the National Aquatic Animal of India. It is one of the National Symbols of India. Gangetic Dolphins are found in the river systems of Ganga, Brahmaputra, Meghna, and Karnaphuli- Sangu in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

